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Letter: Reader shares superintendent mailing

Thursday, June 5, 2003

As a Town Meeting member, I recently received a letter (5/12/03) from the Superintendent of Schools. I believe this letter was meant as a self testimony to his successful stewardship during his tenure.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with all the taxpayers his comments since it was a limited mailing and I believe you should all be aware of his accomplishments.

Eight years ago, upon his arrival in Reading, the superintendent embarked on a crash program to spend, spend, spend. His personal challenge was to build a new high school and to that aim, allowed the RMHS to deteriorate beyond belief.

He is proud of the fact that he was instrumental in convincing taxpayers to approve \$450,000 for design work for the high school and an additional \$55 million for its renovation/addition, also a \$2.5 million additional funding for the Sunset Rock school and an additional \$4.5 million override (\$3 million for the schools) for operational purposes.

He had little or no concern for this excessive debt, since he was not a resident and did not have to pay property taxes in Reading.

He will be leaving Reading on June 30 and should be proud he has led the town into over \$60 million dollars in debt, not to mention the interest on the debt and the added property tax burden to those taxpayers he leaves behind.

He now heads off to North Andover leaving behind the Reading taxpayers, their children and grandchildren who must pay the debt for years to come. There are those who think he is a knight in shining armor, but there are those who knew full well he was building his resume.

I wish North Andover well and hope they have a big surplus and a fat checkbook to welcome their new superintendent.

Gerry MacDonald

Town Meeting Member

Precinct 3

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