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## Letters

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### Board needs independent oversight

Home News Tribune Online 01/30/06

On Dec. 20, the Home News Tribune printed a letter to the editor titled, "They voted it down, now kids have to pay." While I disagree with the final statement, "Shame on Franklin voters," I agree with many of the points of the letter. I agree that taxes are high and that the voters repeatedly vote down school budgets. If I understand the tone of the letter it appears that we also agree that the voters do not believe that the Board of Education is doing a good job.

I have attended most of the board meetings since August and have spoken one-on-one with most of the members of the board. I believe that every member is hardworking, honest and a well-meaning member of our community. They run unopposed every year because even in a community of 55,000 people no one else wants the job.

But as the director of Taxpayers United in Franklin, I am concerned that the budget is not managed as well as it could be. Not because the board is lazy or inept but because it is hard to believe that nine part-time individuals can oversee a \$116 million allocation and not make any mistakes. That is why since August, I have, at each board meeting, called for an outside independent operational review of board spending in order to find inefficiencies in the system. Such a review could lead to a better education for our children at less cost to the community.

Yet the board refuses to allow such a review on the grounds that they could not possibly make a mistake. In addition to denying this request they have also refused to televise their meetings on their own cable station.

I still believe each member of the board is well meaning, but that their attitude of infallibility is arrogant and may be an obstacle to what is best for our community and children. Perhaps it isn't the Franklin voters that deserve the shame?

**Phillip Kramer**

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