

EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Business Office



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Business Manager

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March 17, 2014

Dear East Stroudsburg Area School District Taxpayers:

A question has been raised concerning the millage rate for Pike County as included in the General Fund Budget document (PDE-2028) that was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and contained on the District's website relative to the millage rate that was approved by the Board in the adoption of the final budget for 2013-14. The PDE-2028 Real Estate Tax Report (Pages C-1 and C-2) estimates the tax millage rates for Monroe and Pike counties based on current assessments and the anticipated tax levy needed to balance the budget. In completing the document last year, there were problems with how the form was driving out the tax levy needed. As a result the millage rates calculated for both Monroe and Pike counties were **LESS** than the millage rates for 2012-13 at the same time that the assessed value of the District was lower. It is not possible to have a lower millage rate and a lower tax assessment. PDE was contacted to determine the nature of the problem. In the absence of a response the District proceeded with the Board's directive to have a budget with a zero tax increase. The figures in the Real Estate Tax Report do not alter the revenues and expenses contained in the final budget. The revenues and expenditures submitted to PDE as the final budget represent what was approved by the Board as the final budget. PDE finally responded to the District's question in July after the budget was approved and submitted to PDE and has accepted the document as submitted as it is not possible to go back and amend the PDE-2028. We are working closely with PDE to ensure that the same issues do not arise with the 2014-15 budget document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JS Bader", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey S. Bader, PRSBA
Business Manager