



SICTA Alert – April 9, 2007

Special Board of Education Edition

Important education issues have surfaced in the last few weeks on which you need to **understand, monitor and voice your concerns** in the near future. This alert is focused on these issues that affect both the **quality of education and property taxes**. SICTA has gathered most of the following pertinent information for you in one place on our website at www.sicta.org under the **Board of Education News section**.

BOE / EIRC Community Meetings EIRC has published the long awaited **Feasibility Study** regarding the future of our elementary school. They will be leading **public meetings on April 16th and 23rd** at 6pm in the school gym, as announced in a recent press release. All citizens should strongly consider attending these sessions, as it is an opportunity to provide important feedback to the BOE. They will be making either an explicit or implicit decision for the next school year in the very near future, so it is important to **voice your feelings at these meetings**. SICTA has published a brief review of the study and posted it on our website. **Be sure to read the study and our review before the meetings**.

2007-08 School Budget The Board has approved a budget that fails to keep pace with the decreasing student population at our elementary school. As a result, **average costs per resident pupil are increasing 15% to \$38,822**. SICTA presented a brief synopsis of the school situation at a recent budget meeting, which is also available for your review.

School Board Elections On **April 17th**, school board elections will be held with three unopposed candidates on the ballot. Because there is no opposition, many of you may be tempted not to vote. However, it is important to remember that the **school budget is on the ballot**. So exercise your constitutional rights and vote to express your opinion!

Single County School District In a set of articles last weekend, the Atlantic City Press explored the possibilities for a single county school district. They discussed the potential for **greater cost efficiencies** and **improved education services**. However, they also displayed the possible tax consequences, if ratable values were the basis for funding a single district. Shore towns were shown to have significant tax increases, with a chart showing **Sea Isle City having a 290% school tax increase**. Be sure to read this set of articles, so that you have a full understanding of what is at stake.

Interested in continuing to get SICTA Alerts? Maybe your friends would be too. Please forward this so they can be aware and sign up at www.sicta.org/aboutsicta.htm.