

May 14, 2021

Dear Citizens of Central York School District:

Traditionally, Central York School District candidates running for School Board promote their own ideas and values, not attack the District's Board, teachers and students with deceptive claims. We are disheartened that the campaign representing candidates **Milsten, Folkemer, Thurman and Riek** have recently cast **false claims** about our District and School Board.

Claim: "The current school board has given huge tax carve-outs to special interests."

Fact: The Board has no power to set tax policy or exceptions; they simply set the property tax millage rate. Pennsylvania's LERTA property tax abatement program is rarely used in the District; when done it's to promote greater tax base in order to lower the citizen tax burden. The current Board has made zero abatements. Past Boards have made occasional approvals, most recently two in 2019 and two in 2015.

Claim: "Current school board has given our community nothing but rising taxes and falling test scores."

Fact: The current Board has approved no tax increases. The current 2020-21 school year and proposed 2021-22 school year Budget both include zero tax hikes.

Claim: "Received a D- in transparency from independent analysts."

Fact: This quote appears to cite a Wikipedia transparency rating reference dated July 16, 2011 (ten years ago) and far removed from any recent Boards. Board meetings are currently livestreamed public meetings.

Claim: "Public comments at board meetings fall into a black hole."

Fact: The Board has gone to extensive lengths to foster public comments and responsiveness thereto, including letters directly to the Board, letters for public reading and Zoom-based live participation.

Claim: "Cancelled a town hall meeting with inadequate public notice."

Fact: The most recent Town Hall was cancelled because extensive COVID-era livestreamed public meetings and public comment opportunities left the traditional topics redundant.

Claim: "Ignoring responsibilities, hiding from accountability."

Fact: Board agendas, materials and meetings are conducted in the public forum. This baseless accusation is supported by no offered evidence or examples whatsoever.

Claim: "Test scores have plummeted under their leadership...the current board has no plan to fix it."

Fact: Test scores have trended downward for years. Under the current Board direction, a new math program is being spearheaded to address concerns about declining scores, as has been a request for creation of a Curriculum Committee to better oversee the administration's programs and scores. In fact, many of the current Board members ran on this very issue and are passionately working on it.

Claim: F- grade for entire District.

Fact: This is a made-up condemnation of all CYSD students, teachers and staff working hard together. It's wrong and insulting.

We ask that candidates Milsten, Folkemer, Thurman and Riek discontinue such deceptive claims.

Signed, current CYSD School Board members—

Kyle King

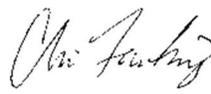
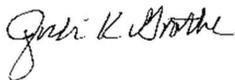
Jodi Grothe

Veronica Gemma

Chris Farling

Vickie Guth

Tim Strickler



Gregory Lewis

