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Britton Deerfield Schools

November 30, 2023

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Dear Members of the BD Community:

Earlier this week our district began receiving calls regarding tax information community members were seeing on their winter tax bills. On this bill, there is a tax for a Bond that was sought and approved by the voters in the community in 2006. This Bond was for the construction of the cafeteria and elementary addition of the Britton School Building. Since 2006 taxpayers have been fulfilling their obligation to this bond on a yearly basis. The Bond expires in 2026. The school can only obtain taxes for this existing bond in the Winter tax—not the summer.

Last year there was a clerical error and the levy for the Bond did not get taken from the winter tax. We, as a school, are not certain how this error occurred. The documents we have—and are attaching for the public—are fully complete and executed documents. However, this form (L4029) is sent to multiple government agencies for review. The district has no understanding of how the error would not have been seen and reported. Additionally, only one form is completed for both Lenawee and Monroe Counties. The Monroe taxes were, in fact, levied correctly and obtained last year. Therefore, only the Lenawee entities are seeing this tax as a variance this year.

Britton Deerfield Schools has no authority over taxation. We do not possess the expertise or ability to communicate with communities about taxes and tax law. We serve the public as an educational entity and take the work we do very seriously with our students, teachers, parents, and communities. For this reason, we are sorry this burden has caused people to be frustrated. We want each member of the community to know that we, too, are frustrated that no notice was given. We were unaware of the communication procedure within the government offices to report changes on tax records or bills. As a district, we assumed taxpayers were made aware at the same time we were made aware. We also want to assure the community that we will work diligently with any other government agency to ensure this does not happen again. We realize all the offices are exceptionally busy and that human error can happen. Our goal would never be placing undue burden on the community members of Britton Deerfield Schools. We love our small town, our families, and the support we receive when we come to the community in need.

We deeply apologize this situation occurred--and we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Stacy Johnson
Superintendent