

1027 Big Ridge Drive
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
February 16, 2012

Sharon S. Laverdure, Superintendent and
Members of the Board of Education
East Stroudsburg Area School District
50 Vine Street
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18301

Dear Ms. Laverdure and Board Members,

It is unfortunate that the February 13th board meeting was not as advertised. The unannounced presentation by the Superintendent did nothing to help the budget situation but certainly riled the parents of the two schools that were identified as possibly being closed. And who formulated the actual words for the motion about the A, B, and C Options? I believe no one wanted the options nor was it required at this phase of the budget process. This was a wrong presentation at the wrong time that changed the focus of the overall interests of many taxpayers like me – namely the continuing increases in the ESASD budgets. An article in today's Pocono Record identified that there were many areas being discussed by the Stroudsburg District in regard to their budget problems, and their Business Manager, Don Jennings, said the cuts presented to the board Wednesday total about \$13 million in savings.

Smoke and mirrors are not what we want to see, or getting the public off task and fighting against one another. I thought all schools in our district were excellent institutions for learning. I am not proposing cutting educational resources, just do it more efficiently with transparency.

I will state this once again: our grandson will be attending the district therefore we have a stake in making ESASD better and you really do not want to upset grandparents on a mission.

Sincerely,



Robert Pohlman
570.223.2036

East Stroudsburg Elementary

February 21, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

On February 13, 2012, a school board meeting was held to decide whether to proceed with holding a public hearing on the closing of JM Hill and/or Smithfield Elementary schools.

The public was allowed to speak and voice their concerns at this meeting. I was shocked by the impression that a few parents have of other elementary schools in the district. To hear them refer to JM Hill and Smithfield as our "best" schools, I take umbrage to that. All of our schools are "the best". Because JM Hill and Smithfield are too small to have sub groups, they make AYP. If subgroups were divided equally throughout the district, we would all be experiencing the effects that subgroups have on PSSA.

To refer to ESE as " the big school where students are just a number", this is just wrong. Are parents in the district aware that we have received state recognition for our School Wide Positive Behavior Plan? Do they realize that the majority of faculty here at ESE came from Smithfield, JM Hill, Resica and Middle Smithfield, and, brought with us all the best practices from these schools? With the guidance of our educational leader, we strive to promote academic achievement on a daily basis.

To single out schools as "better" is a mistake. We need to work together to solve the fiscal crisis we are now in.

I cannot attend the public hearing on March 2nd, but I do hope that our administration will point out to parents that all of our schools and all of our faculty are caring, dedicated professionals.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Riley
ESE Reading Specialist

1

From: mark lichty
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 8:21 AM
To: sharon lavredure

The board has a tremendous challenge now addressing the school closing issue. My children went to Smithfield Elementary, and we have many fond memories of that school, and I suspect their names are still on the wall where Mr Wilson wrote them for rope climbing. However, we must look beyond our sentimental attachments. My understanding is that closure of the two proposed schools would not effect the quality of education. The amount saved would be substantial. Our taxes are already extremely high, and houses are being foreclosed upon due to inability to meet tax bills. Those seeking to keep the schools opened cannot expect to have it both ways, i.e. taxes staying down, and keeping unnecessary schools opened. My only criticism of the board is that they didn't address this issue four years ago when the decline in enrollment began. By this time we would have saved millions more, and perhaps helped some people better pay their tax bills. However, due to the outpouring of emotion on this, I understand why the board has deferred this important issue.

I also understand the concern that many folks have for the community nature of these schools. There is much to be said for that. However, in my own mind I ask, e.g. if my kids had gone to the new school on 447 , could that not have taken on the complexion of a community school? How can we afford to run that school under capacity.

I applaud you Sharon, for your efforts at seeking community input with your Saturday morning meetings. Unfortunately, while I know that this was advertised, I have spoken with several people who were not aware of that outreach. I know my position will be unpopular, but you know me well enough to know that I have taken many unpopular stands before, and have regretted none. I think if we all speak our piece in a respectful , truthful manner, that will provide the board with the information to better make this decision.

I will not be in attendance on Friday, so you have my approval to read this into the record.

cc: For those copied, I do not know what your position is on this matter. However, I do know that the board needs thoughtful guidance. I encourage you to weigh in. I believe they are doing the best they can to listen.

Ask for a number of people = to number of students being moved to stand. 14 per row times 25 rows for a total of about 350 people. Then begin.

We have heard a lot about numbers tonight, and rightfully so. The budget is vitally important. The shortfalls are daunting. We've seen the numbers. These are the people. These people standing represent the students who will be most affected by your decision. These are the people that will try to find a way to fit into their new school communities. They will be welcomed with open arms, there is no doubt, but it will be very different from what they have always known. These are the people that will have to adjust to the changes. We have all seen what it is like for a new student to move into a school, and we all know the challenges that they face, and how intimidating it all can be. Multiply that by 337 or 388. These children will be anxious. They will be nervous. It may be very hard for them to focus on their studies as they work to adjust. I know. My daughter told me when she was moved from JM Hill to ESE. She still remembers Mrs. DeHart. She remembers and she misses. She loves ESE now. She's connected to it, but those connections, like all good things, took time to grow and wrap themselves around her. ESE is her school, and she is proud to call it her home. She knew what teacher she was hoping to get in 5th grade when she was in the third grade. She knew. The children and parents of JM Hill and Smithfield can tell you as well. They know their school, teachers and staff. Generations of the same family have been taught by the same teacher. They know. That's what makes a school a home. Each school in our district is their neighborhood small school. Each has forged these connections with their communities and, make no mistake about it ladies and gentlemen, each of them will be effected by these proposals. Some will change by welcoming new students, but the changes won't stop there. Teacher and support staff cuts and furloughs will most certainly cause changes in the staff and classrooms of all school communities across the district, not just at Smithfield or JM Hill. Long standing members of school communities in Bushkill, Resica, Middle Smithfield and ESE may well move to a new school. Some, sadly, we may lose. We can hope that their talents and care for the children will still be there when we are ready to call them back, but like anyone who has lost their job, sometimes they cannot ride out the storm, and must seek new harbors. Change will come to all school communities if these options are executed by the board. We know that closing one or both of these schools will not lower anyone's taxes, nor will it provide the long-term solutions to our financial problems. We have heard and seen the numbers. We know the facts. Let us now do what we were so beautifully reminded to do during Tuesday night's band concert. Let us find the place where men (and women) and mountains meet, and do great things together again. We need our schools. Thank you for your time and attention.

Geoff Gamble
92 Fawn Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

James Furiosi
522 Pepper Road
15 Monroe Lake Shores
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

March 2, 2012

East Stroudsburg School Board
Superintendent's Office
East Stroudsburg Area School District
50 Vine Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Dear Board,

I wanted to make some quick comments before tonight's hearing regarding the possible closing of Smithfield and JM Hill Elementary Schools. It is my understanding that students would be diverted to East Stroudsburg Elementary. My daughter Catie currently has 29 kids in her 3rd Grade Reading class. While I feel Principal Livingston does a great job, wouldn't it make sense for Catie to attend Resica Elementary if kids in our neck of the woods were shifted to ESE?

I don't understand how ESE has extra capacity if my child already has large classes? Resica is 8.8 miles away from our house while ESE is 10.5 miles away. I realize 2 miles is not a huge differential but Resica is in our community and seems to have smaller class sizes than ESE.

Also, please consider cuts to administration, instituting co-pays and deductibles and other measures to help save teaching positions. Maybe you should split the district at some point if the millage rates in one county are lower than another?

Thank you for your time,



James Furiosi

1

BY:

Dear Board Member:

I am a Taxpayer and a parent of 3 children in East Stroudsburg. All 3 of my children attend JM Hill Elementary School. I have been to the public hearings discussing why the Board should not close JM Hill. I would just like to tell you my personal feelings.

I moved out here 9 years ago with my husband and 1 year old son. We were able to buy a home on a wonderful street with low taxes and great neighbors. My sister had moved out here 8 years before us, and all 3 of her children attended JM Hill. She loved the school and told us that we would love it too when our kids were school age. She was right! We love it! Fast forward 9 years and my 10 year old is in 5th grade; my 8 year old is in 3rd and my baby girl is in Kindergarten. All of my kids love their school and their teachers. My husband and I love the school because its small, it's close to home, and it's a community amongst itself. I am on the Executive Board of the PTO, and I have been for 2 years, and I hope to be on it for the next 2. I am very involved in my children's school, even though I work a demanding full time job and I am the sole income provider for my family. I feel that it is very important.

Closing JM Hill will be detrimental to all of the East Stroudsburg families that go there. It is a community and it has history in our town. My taxes have more than doubled since we've lived here. They are now at NJ rates. My husband and I left NJ because of the high taxes, and now we are faced with the same problem we left. Cut somewhere else, but not the school.

Please do not close JM Hill Elementary.

Thank you



Nancy Robilotta
27 Lions Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Susan Jorstad
3194 Dogwood Terrace
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
(570) 476-1323
sjorstad@ptd.net

TO SUPERINTENDENT SHARON LAVERDURE AND ESASD BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Although my comments from the March 2, 2012 public hearing are in the official transcript, I hope you will read my thoughts submitted here, as my actual delivery was truncated to fit the 3-minute time limit.

I would also like to add that, having met with most of you in personal, community or business settings, I have great respect for the ESASD administrative team and board members. You all dedicate time beyond the scope of your jobs and voluntary positions for the benefit of our schools and children. If the tone of my spoken comments during the hearing seemed rushed or disparaging, please understand that stemmed from time constraints, frustration and nervousness, and certainly is not personally directed at any of you.

REGARDING THE POSSIBLE CLOSING OF SMITHFIELD OR JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

As a parent, I am concerned about the quality of education for my children. We have many good teachers, many good families and the opportunity for a good education in each. So this is not a matter of 'my child's school is better than that school.'

As a taxpayer, I am concerned that the decision to close a school is being made hastily, based on miscalculations and without regard for the whole picture.

In reviewing the budget proposals and proposed spending cuts, a number of areas still need to be addressed:

1. **Why does the cost savings analysis for closing Smithfield include furloughing 10 professionals (teachers) while closing JM Hill (the school with larger enrollment) will result in furloughing only 6 professionals?** The difference in savings between the two options appears to be entirely the difference in the number of teachers you will choose to eliminate under each option. Why would not 10 be eliminated under either option?
2. **Smithfield houses Early Intervention and Autistic Support students through the IU, as well as Life Skills students.** I did not see these numbers included in the table comparing enrollment at each of our elementary schools. If Smithfield were to close, where would these students go? This is a logistical and cost factor that must be part of the equation.

1 of 4

3. **The cost savings of closing Smithfield versus J M Hill (as provided to the public) is unfair and incomplete.** Smithfield is fully up-to-date, having just 4 years ago undergone a multi-million dollar renovation, while renovations in excess of \$2.5 million are planned for JM Hill. Why would this cost not be included in the cost comparisons of closing Smithfield and keeping J M Hill in operation? Perhaps your answer is that the JM Hill renovations must be done even if the school is vacant. Yet why renovate a potentially vacant building that the board admits has a low likelihood of ever being rented? Why not do the minimal repairs to keep the building standing in case of future need, or sell it? Or -- *IF the condition is as severe as the former Bummell building* -- demolish it? Why aren't these alternatives being discussed?

Truly, I do appreciate the historic value of this neighborhood school, so I do not propose these serious alternatives lightly, but I also believe that in our present financial crisis, it is imperative for the board to examine the REALITY and all options.

4. **Will ESASD be required to repay state subsidies received for the recent construction and renovations to Smithfield?** If Smithfield is closed, will we have to do so at a higher interest rate since the building is no longer being used for educational purposes? *This must be included in the comparison of the possible closure of the two schools.*
5. The Board has discussed increasing class size to 30 students. In the classrooms that I have been in many of our schools, there is barely room for the 22 or so desks that are in most of the rooms now. **Before making a decision to significantly increase class sizes, it would be prudent to ascertain whether there is truly enough space.**

I do not object to closing a school out of sentimental attachment. However, closing one or two schools will only account for 10-15 % of the budget gap. I am not convinced that it will save much money to close either school. However, if closing a school is determined to be prudent, then it only makes sense to close JM Hill.

Despite being a Smithfield parent, I can honestly say I feel unbiased in this; my youngest son is in 4th grade and has friends attending ESE. (I also believe most children are resilient to unwelcome change and that, presented properly to them, this could be an exciting and positive change for them.). Had this issue been up for discussion 5-6 years ago, prior to Smithfield's major overhaul, I would have been in favor of closing Smithfield before JM Hill. Yet again, Smithfield is fully up-to-date and requires no infusion of money.

If you are going to consider closing a school, it is crucial that you use accurate numbers. Use ALL the information. Make the decision based on the current and future needs for this district, not on emotional ties to a building, and do what makes sense for the entire school community.

Addendum

REGARDING THE BUDGET IN GENERAL:

1. I appreciate some of the more creative budget-trimming efforts. For example, at South H.S., Mr. Catrillo keeps hallway lighting at low levels, even during class changes. This seems to me a simple, practical way to conserve electricity and painlessly trim costs. Meanwhile, at Middle Smithfield, numerous brand new flat-screen TVs throughout the building - including hallways - are ON all day, broadcasting random bits of trivia. Why were these TV's ever purchased in the first place?!? At the time of their purchase, we were already seeing enormous tax increases. They are of little or no educational value, they are distracting, and they are sucking electricity. Wasteful spending such as this is contributing to the district's budget woes and tax burden, not simply a drop in enrollment.
2. Rather than cutting valuable academic programs – which include music and arts education – please instead look at ways to alleviate the taxpayer burden while keeping programs available to students:
 - a. **Pay freezes:** Many of us in the private sector have taken pay freezes or cuts. It's a recession. In my husband's NJ school district, where is director of guidance services and considered administration, administrators voluntarily took a pay freeze for more than one year, BEFORE the teachers took a pay freeze.
 - b. **ALL employees should pay into health care:** Based on the Board's budget, \$6 million of the \$10 million shortfall for 2012-13 is due to increases in salaries and benefits. This \$6 million increase over prior year includes \$2.5 million additional tax payer dollars for teachers' pensions and an additional \$1.8 million for medical insurance. It is my understanding that teachers contribute some amount to their own health insurance coverage. Why are administrators not contributing to theirs?? If ALL employees contributed to their health insurance coverage *by just the amount of the increase in premiums* from last year, we would save more money than closing either school. This is fair and reasonable in comparison to what most private sector employees pay into their health plans.
 - c. **Staffing cuts:** Should be commensurate to enrollment decline.
 - d. **Eliminate Full-Day Kindergarten:** It is unnecessary. Parents should be expected to prepare their children for the most basic skills and behaviors for kindergarten readiness. The 'extras' that come with a full day are unneeded – gym, music, lunch, recess, etc.
 - e. **Pay-to-Play:** Charge students a fee to cover the cost of extra-curriculars and sports. Waiving the fee based on GPA would be great incentive to all students to make their grades a priority, and it would keep access to sports available to all students who are 'making the grade' regardless of financial means. You could waive the fee for students who maintain a 3.0, and discount it for students who maintain at least a 2.0. Wouldn't that also be the right message to send to students and parents? If a side-benefit is a boost in PSSA scores, that benefits the entire community.

- f. **Activity Buses:** Keep ONLY if parents of students who use them are willing to pay a fee.
- g. **Driver's Education:** This is valuable program. Keep it available for a fee.
- h. **Keep music programs intact.** Studies show that learning to read music and play an instrument enhances a student's math and science abilities; it is part of a full education.
- i. **Cut the Guest Composer Series.** As *wonderful* as the guest composer series is, it is not a necessity, and it can be cut, at least temporarily, or made available only if the band parents are willing to raise money to pay for it. Similar 'extras' across the curriculum can be eliminated without hurting students' education.
- j. **Grants aren't the answer to everything.** While it's nice to say something was paid for with a grant, writing for a grant – and paying someone to do that – costs money. Grant money also comes with ties: you are often expected to chip in a certain dollar amount, or are subject to oversight and regulation which costs time and money to 'prove' your use of the grant money is justified.

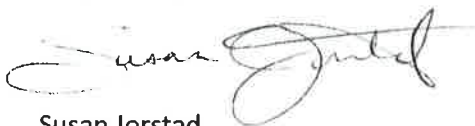
On a personal note, our family of six lives in a 1,000-sq-ft. home. It's a little crowded. We made the decision when we moved here from Pittsburgh 16+ years ago, to forego a second income so our children would have a full-time mom. This has been a worthwhile sacrifice – I'd rather have the time and relationships than a big house! We've never lived beyond our own means. We saved and Guy earned several graduate degrees to 'move up' in income, and we could afford to now move 'up.' One of the biggest reasons we have not: sky-rocketing property taxes. Guy would gladly move into New Jersey to shorten his commute; although home prices are higher, NJ taxes aren't any more, even in the Blue Ribbon school districts. We've considered moving to Northampton County or the Lehigh Valley.

We have stayed because, for the most part, **we feel our children are receiving a good education here.** We have friends here, we are involved, and we have a strong sense of community. Although we know several families that are preparing to 'bail' and leave, we hope not to feel compelled to go ourselves.

Bottom line: E-burg families cannot continue to bear tax increases of 6 to 10 percent each year. It simply isn't sustainable.

I urge you to make the difficult decisions and cuts that are necessary, and to do so sensibly and fairly.

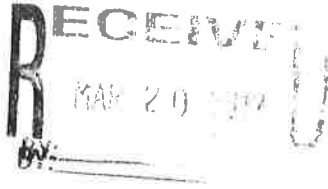
Respectfully submitted,



Susan Jorstad
3194 Dogwood Terrace
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

21 March 2012

4 of 4



March 15, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

It has come to my attention that Smithfield Elementary School may be closed down. This is after a fifteen million dollar addition. I also hear that JM Hill, a much smaller facility, will be kept open and that it will require a three million dollar addition. Are you people serious? How dare you use our tax dollars in such a foolish manner. Why would an older and less equipped school be kept open, and why do we taxpayers have to spend yet more money to renovate it. Also, East Stroudsburg Elementary School was recently constructed. Why was a new school built and tax dollars spent on it if another needs to be shut down?

I have also heard rumors that certain people on the Board of Education have personal interests in keeping JM Hill open. If this is true, you should all be ashamed of yourselves, and, perhaps, those who do not have the best interest of the children and community should face criminal charges.

My family and I moved here from New Jersey and wish we could move back. The people running this town obviously do not know what they are doing and I wonder where our tax dollars are going.

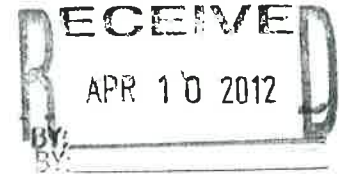
Teresa Treat, a disgusted resident of

32 Eaglesmere Circle - East Stroudsburg

Teresa Treat

420-9260

Ms. Sharon Laverdure, ESASD Superintendent
East Stroudsburg Area School District
321 North Courtland Street
P.O. Box 298
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301



March 31, 2012

Re: Budget shortfall and possible closure of Smithfield or J.M. Hill

Ms. Laverdure and Board of Education Members:

We are writing to comment and express our concerns regarding the Boards pending decision to possibly close either Smithfield or J.M. Hill elementary schools.

We have reviewed the budget and have noted that \$6 million of the \$10 million shortfall for 2012-13 is due to increases in salaries and benefits. This \$6 million increase over prior year includes \$2.5 million additional tax payer dollars for teachers' pensions and an additional \$1.8 million for medical insurance. If teachers and staff contributed to their own health insurance coverage an additional amount equal to the amount of the increase in premiums from last year, we would save more money than closing either school. (We would save \$1.8 million vs. \$1.6 saved in closing Smithfield or \$1.1 saved in closing J M Hill.) The average private sector employee contributes 37.6% of total health care premiums based on the 2011 Kaiser Family Foundation Benefits Study. Requiring the teachers and staff to pay for the annual increase in premiums will still leave them paying less on a percentage basis than the average private sector employee.

With teachers in Pennsylvania being among the highest paid teachers in the nation (in the top ten states for highest pay and top five states for teacher pay relative to the non-teacher mean) has the board looked to aggressively limit increases in pay via negotiations with the teachers and their union? Has the Board aggressively pushed for modification to the teachers defined benefit pension plan whose *increase* in required contributions accounts for \$2.5 million of the \$10 million shortfall? Why would the Board not evaluate and push for these alternatives which are fair and have no impact on our children's education?

If the solution to the budget shortfall this year is to close a school to save between \$1.1 million and \$1.6 million, what happens next year when staffs' pay, pension and health insurance increase another \$6 million or more? Do we close another school or two? Closing either school is short sighted and side stepping the real driver of the budget gap. The only meaningful step that can be taken to reign in cost for taxpayers and not negatively affect education quality is to deal with the upward spiral of wages and benefits.

If the board decides that closure of an elementary school is necessary, our hope is that the analysis of cost savings under the two alternatives is fair and accurate. Several facts presented to date raise questions as to the completeness and accuracy of the analysis. Some of them follow:

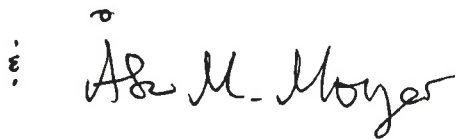
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1. Why does the analysis of cost savings in closing Smithfield school include eliminating 10 professionals (teachers) and closing J. M. Hill (the larger school in terms of enrollment) result in only 6 professionals being eliminated? The difference in savings between the two options is entirely the difference in the number of teachers you choose to eliminate under each option. Why wouldn't 10 be eliminated under each option?
2. In comparing the cost savings of closing Smithfield versus J. M. Hill there is no consideration in the analysis for the millions in renovations that will be required in the next few years for J. M. Hill. Smithfield is completely up to date having recently undergone a multi-million dollar renovation. Why wouldn't the cost of J. M. Hill's needed renovation be included in the cost of closing Smithfield and keeping J. M. Hill in operation? The answer I have been given to date is that the renovations would have to be done even if the school was vacant and the money for the renovations has already been raised through a bond issue. Really? Renovate a vacant building that the board admits has a low likelihood of ever being rented? Why not do the minimal amount of repairs to keep the building standing in case of future need or sell or demolish the building. As far as the argument that the district already has the money for the renovations, why not use it to extinguish debt? Are these alternatives being discussed?
3. Do we know whether the state money that was received for the recent renovations of Smithfield will be required to be repaid to the state if we close the school? If so, shouldn't this repayment be included in the comparison of the closure of the two schools? Certainly we should have this information and it should be considered prior to making a decision on which school to close.

Please carefully consider what actions are necessary to balance the district's budget and prioritize the cuts which would have the smallest effect on students and taxpayers. The districts' purpose is to provide a good education for the area's youth and to do so at a reasonable cost to taxpayers. Cost cutting alternatives which do not address the unsustainable increase in wages and benefits are short sighted, temporary "fixes" to a broken system.

Thank you for your time and service to our community. Please distribute a copy of this letter to each Board member.

Sincerely,



Todd R. Moyer & Asa M. Moyer
P.O. Box 535, 1036 SkyView
Shawnee, PA 18356
(570) 460-3560

2 of 2



P.O. Box 303, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301-0303
Phone: 570-421-8300 FAX: 570-421-5575 TDD: 570-421-4153
E-mail: boroeseb@epix.net Web: www.eastburg.org
Deliveries: 24 Analomink Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301-2801

May 7, 2012

Board of School Directors
East Stroudsburg Area School District
50 Vine St.
East Stroudsburg PA 18301

RE: Proposed Closing of Elementary School

Dear School Board Members,

East Stroudsburg Borough is aware of the budget issues facing the District, that has resulted in consideration of closing of one of the District's elementary schools. Borough Council at the May 1, 2012 meeting approved a motion to direct this letter to the School Board – to request that the District keep J.M. Hill School open; and close Smithfield School.

J.M. Hill Elementary School is the District's only true "neighborhood school" where a large portion of the students actually can walk to school. If J.M. Hill School were to be closed (as opposed to Smithfield), the District will face additional costs for busing the students who now walk to school. In addition, because of its proximity to the residential neighborhoods surrounding it, the closing of J.M. Hill School would adversely effect property values within the Borough – and thus within the District. Smithfield School, alternatively, is not located in a residential-only area, and its closing would not have the same negative effect on property values.

Council requests that the School Directors adopt the course of action that offers the most cost savings to the District, as identified by the District Administration – the closing of Smithfield Elementary School and keeping open J. M. Hill Elementary School in East Stroudsburg.

Very truly yours,

James S. Phillips
Manager

Cc: Members of Council, Mayor
ESASD File

1

Letter – J.M. Hill School

President - Roger L. DeLarco
Vice-President - William T. Reese
Councilwoman - Sonia C. Wolbert
Councilman - Edward Flory

Mayor - Armand M. Martinelli
Borough Manager - James S. Phillips
Councilman - Peter Begley
Councilman - Donald Repsher

Codes Officer/Health Officer - John E. Blick
Solicitor - John C. Prevostnik
Engineer - R.K.R. Hess Assoc., Inc.



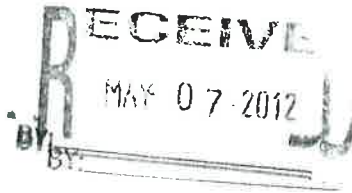
Amori & Associates, L.L.C.

Scott M. Amori, Esq.

Victoria Avellino Strunk, Esq.
Matthew A. Schmidt, Esq.*
Robert A. Saurman, Esq.

*Also licensed in NJ

Attorneys at Law
www.amoriandassociates.com



May 7, 2012

RE: Save Our East Stroudsburg Schools
Hearing on School Closure of JM Hill Elementary
and Smithfield Elementary

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed is the written submission to follow the testimony given at the public hearing on the possible closures of Smithfield Elementary School and JM Hill Elementary School.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Scott M. Amori

Enc.

1 of 42

SAVE OUR EAST STROUDSBURG SCHOOLS

**Written Remarks for the Hearing Before the East Stroudsburg Area
School District Board of Education**

**On the Possible Closure
Of Smithfield Elementary School
Or JM Hill Elementary School**

May 3, 2012

Scott M. Amori, Esq.
Sean Boyer
Geof Gambill
Elizabeth R. Kirkwood, Esq.
Linda Yeager

2 of 42

To: The East Stroudsburg Area School Directors
Sharon Laverdure, Superintendent

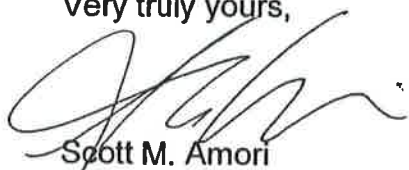
Dear Sirs and Madams:

The following written statements are being submitted to supplement the record developed at the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held March 2, 2012. Written statements from district residents and taxpayers Scott M. Amori, Sean Boyer, Geof Gambill and Elizabeth R. Kirkwood, Esq. are included, together with the signature petition submission from Linda Yeager, containing 532 signatures opposing the closure of either JM Hill Elementary or Smithfield Elementary.

Please make this complete submission part of the public record of the proceedings in this matter.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Scott M. Amori
Save Our East Stroudsburg Schools

3 of 42

Save Our East Stroudsburg Schools

Scott M. Amori
264 Boyer Lane
East Stroudsburg PA 18301

Revised and Extended Remarks
May 1, 2012

East Stroudsburg Area School District now stands directly facing the tidal wave that has been building for twenty years. Since the District announced its intention to investigate the possible closures of two elementary schools, Smithfield and JM Hill, I, along with the subsequent speakers, formed Save Our East Stroudsburg Schools and commenced a review of the district's structure, the \$126 million 2011-2012 budget, the professional contract, and the Pennsylvania School Code. We organized and accomplished this in fifteen days.

This grass-roots effort has been an enormous undertaking. And exhausting. And absolutely necessary to see how we got to this point of a draconian proposal to shut schools that have been the very fabric of their communities for almost a century.

This fact will not change: the District faces a massive \$10 million budget shortfall for 2012-2013. It will not go away. The 2011-2012 budget is approximately \$126 million. The 2012-2013 preliminary budget from the District proposes yet another tax increase, this time of 5.8%. Even the revised preliminary budget proposes a 2.3% increase with the additional of a student activity fee. Another tax increase cannot be sustained by the residents.

At the last hearing the District Administration presented initial enrollment and prospective budgetary savings in the event of the these closures. In reviewing these numbers, we found that the actual enrollment figures fail to match internally. For example, the District stated that 697 students are enrolled at East Stroudsburg Elementary, yet the district-wide AS400 database and the cafeteria account systems show more students enrolled – 730. This disparity is just at one school.

Additional enrollment figures released by the District show a decline in student population to 2002 levels. The current economic downturn has erased a decade of growth. Absent a proper census of students, the District's school population starting point is fatally flawed.

The District estimates savings of approximately \$1 million if JM Hill is closed and \$1.5 million if Smithfield is closed. Buried in those numbers is the startling fact that the estimated yearly expense to operate each building post closure is only approximately

4 of 42

\$50,000. This amount is less than one percent of the projected budget deficit; an infinitesimal amount when looking at the bleak overall picture. Even assuming the District's budgetary numbers are accurate, the closure of both schools would still leave a budget deficit of approximately \$7.5 million. This deficit must be addressed by higher taxes or additional operating cuts. Either way the repercussions must necessarily impact the remaining staff, buildings and programs and taxpayers across the district.

Any closure would necessitate staff reductions. However, looking at the District's estimated staff savings from the elimination of just three teaching positions, the savings do not materialize as estimated. For example, each school has one vocal music teacher, one RTI teacher and one reading specialist. The District estimates savings of \$70,600 for vocal music teacher, and \$100,000 for each RTI and reading specialist. Contractually, the furloughing of teaching staff would result in the loss of actual positions that currently collectively earn \$26,000 less than the District estimates. In other words, the District savings by staff elimination in these single position instructional areas overstates the actual cost savings possible by nine percent. The Board cannot move forward with their decision given a disparity such as this, which alone represents approximately half of the cost of keeping one of the buildings open.

The outlook for tax revenues will not improve, either. The District has discovered an increase in delinquent tax collections and has revised its 2012/2013 proposed budget numbers accordingly. However, this improvement in delinquent tax collections arrives by means of the staggering number of Sheriff's Foreclosure Sales where the outstanding school taxes are collected from the purchaser at the Sheriff's auction. While helpful to the District's bottom line, it can hardly be viewed positively in the long term.

By law, there will need to be a reassessment in Monroe County. Portions of a "shadow" reassessment have been occurring for several years in both Pike and Monroe Counties. Recently, the Board approved a settlement in a tax assessment challenge by the owners of the former Pocmont Resort. The result of the appeal carved \$1.45 million from the assessed tax base of the district. Fernwood is currently appealing the tax assessment of its real estate holdings. With the staggering number of foreclosures in Monroe County, the continually dropping average home sale price, and the almost complete lack of new home construction (only 195 permits issued county wide for 2011), there is a very real possibility that the tax base will contract in a reassessment. The current trends certainly bode just as poorly for the district's share of any real estate transfer tax income since the local real estate market remains in a depressed state with far fewer sales than at any time in the last decade and at decreased sale prices. Without a better understanding of the coming market trends, the Board simply cannot move forward on closing schools.

Absent in the discussion has been the discussion of the noninstructional and administration budget, which for 2011-2012 comprises an expenditure of \$43 million. The administration put forth no alternatives for reducing the cost of salaries, health insurance benefits and pensions for these non-teaching district employees. The personnel costs alone of the 2011-2012 non-instructional budget comprise 62% of the noninstructional budget, or \$27 million.

Furthermore, the District's own numbers show a precipitous decline in student population to 2002 levels, but the District carries 252 more employees than it had in 2002. The remaining three districts in Monroe County have shed hundreds of employees. East Stroudsburg Area School District relies on retirement attrition and the hopes for increased delinquent tax collections, while again proposing a tax increase.

The District currently budgets \$19 million for its debt service. Smithfield Elementary School's renovations were completed in 2006. State financial assistance was involved, and the District's proposals make no mention of the impact of closing a school recently renovated using state aid. Regardless, the District's debt is in the form of bonds. Whether the District closes these schools or not, the debt load from the bonds and its interest payment debt service remain an albatross on the district-wide budget that closing these schools will not fix.

As the Board of the East Stroudsburg Area School District, the residents and taxpayers impacted by your decisions deserve nothing less than a complete study of the District's finances. A seemingly quick fix, such as proposed in these closings, looks far less appealing upon scrutiny. I urge you to do your elected duty and examine all financial options before sounding the death knell for these schools.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott M. Amori", with a small dot at the end.

Scott M. Amori

Geof Gambill

Ask for a number of people = to number of students being moved to stand. 14 per row times 25 rows for a total of about 350 people. Then begin.

We have heard a lot about numbers tonight, and rightfully so. The budget is vitally important. The shortfalls are daunting. We've seen the numbers. These are the people. These people standing represent the students who will be most affected by your decision. These are the people that will try to find a way to fit into their new school communities. They will be welcomed with open arms, there is no doubt, but it will be very different from what they have always known. These are the people that will have to adjust to the changes. We have all seen what it is like for a new student to move into a school, and we all know the challenges that they face, and how intimidating it all can be. Multiply that by 337 or 388. These children will be anxious. They will be nervous. It may be very hard for them to focus on their studies as they work to adjust. I know. My daughter told me when she was moved from JM Hill to ESE. She still remembers Mrs. DeHart. She remembers and she misses. She loves ESE now. She's connected to it, but those connections, like all good things, took time to grow and wrap themselves around her. ESE is her school, and she is proud to call it her home. She knew what teacher she was hoping to get in 5th grade when she was in the third grade. She knew. The children and parents of JM Hill and Smithfield can tell you as well. They know their school, teachers and staff. Generations of the same family have been taught by the same teacher. They know. That's what makes a school a home. Each school in our district is their neighborhood small school. Each has forged these connections with their communities and, make no mistake about it ladies and gentlemen, each of them will be effected by these proposals. Some will change by welcoming new students, but the changes won't stop there. Teacher and support staff cuts and furloughs will most certainly cause changes in the staff and classrooms of all school communities across the district, not just at Smithfield or JM Hill. Long standing members of school communities in Bushkill, Resica, Middle Smithfield and ESE may well move to a new school. Some, sadly, we may lose. We can hope that their talents and care for the children will still be there when we are ready to call them back, but like anyone who has lost their job, sometimes they cannot ride out the storm, and must seek new harbors. Change will come to all school communities if these options are executed by the board. We know that closing one or both of these schools will not lower anyone's taxes, nor will it provide the long-term solutions to our financial problems. We have heard and seen the numbers. We know the facts. Let us now do what we were so beautifully reminded to do during Tuesday night's band concert. Let us find the place where men (and women) and mountains meet, and do great things together again. We need our schools. Thank you for your time and attention.

7 of 42

My name is Sean Boyer. I live at 152 Gabriel Drive, East Stroudsburg. I am resident, a tax payer, and a father of a child in Smithfield Elementary. I have lived in the Poconos virtually all my life graduating from Pleasant Valley and then ESU with a Masters Degree.

I applaud the efforts in finding creative ways in your February 27 budget meeting to save \$6.5 million. Creative methods may help to find the rest of the needed funds such as the following:

1. having businesses advertise on the school buses
2. having parents buy school books
3. cut the Drivers Education Program
4. rent out school rooms to Adult night classes
5. having administrative staff pay half of their health insurance like a lot of us already do.

As you heard from the February 13th meeting we all have to make sacrifices.

The approach that was taken by the board in communicating the school closings was not in the best interest of the community, as it did not provide enough time for us to organize and research. If some of those budget cuts listed in the February 27th budget meeting were determined and decided upon within the past two weeks, just think what could've been done if this had been formally brought to the public a year ago. PEW Charitable Trusts, who analyzes public and civil problems, did a study last year,¹ concluding that informing the public early on in the process of closing schools would result in a much fairer process for everyone involved, school closing or not; the district had given one- year advanced notice to the public well .

In the past two weeks several groups have organized in our district and participated in solving this problem as a community. We as a community have found discrepancies, have found solutions, and have educated ourselves as to the nature of our problem. Let me underscore OUR

problem as this affects the entire district. On Monday, I sent direct questions to the district Right To Know Officer trying to find numerical trends over the past 5 years, trying to figure out what went wrong, where we are headed, and what could be done. I received a bunch of links yesterday afternoon which might provide me some of the data, but I have to sift and compile it myself which I had no time for last night. Again, we should've been given more time to educate ourselves and determine solutions.

Lastly, while there was just cause to build a new elementary school based upon the influx of new students, the decision to build a \$40 million school, instead of a typical \$10-\$20 million school has been proven to be severely underestimated. Compounding that was the redistricting of hundreds of students, transferring them from the very two schools we are now discussing to be closed. There is no doubt that poor decisions have been made in the past, let's not rush into another poor decision for the welfare of our kids, our educators, and our communities.

Sean Boyer

9 of 42

Establish a County-Wide Advisory Committee to Develop Long-Term Solutions

School closures abound nation-wide, becoming almost epidemic. Our public educational problems are here to stay in this economy. In response, we must be unified and strong and devise long-term creative solutions as a district and as a community to protect our schools from closing year after year.

Why is this important? For one, the impacts of closing schools are very grave, affecting everything from the real estate property values to the social fabric of a community. And secondly, because if we don't develop long-term strategies, we will see a domino effect whereby this school board will have to decide to close more schools every fiscal year. And while it may seem like a wise idea to close a school in the immediate short-term, make no mistake, the board will have to move mountains before it can re-open a closed Smithfield or J.M. Hill in our district.

So what can we do? First, I want to commend the East Stroudsburg Area School District on demonstrating the kind of critical creative thinking for reducing its \$10 million deficit in its final budget discussion that just came out on Monday, February 27, 2012. Line by line, the district has already identified ways to cut \$6 million in its budget.

To then jump to the conclusion that we should simply close Smithfield or J.M Hill to make up the remaining deficit gap, however, is short-sighted, irresponsible, and destructive to our community. We simply have not had sufficient time to make such a drastic and draconian decision. Rather such a decision must be based upon "hard, empirical evidence that leads to a broadly supported, incontrovertible conclusion." <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/schoolclose.asp>

As a taxpayer and parent, I contend that we have not met this burden.

Instead, I urge the Board to implement the following measures designed to ensure sound reasoning, transparency, and fairness.

(1) establish a blue-ribbon County-wide Advisory Committee

(DAC) comprised of a balanced cross-section of the community;

- (2) continue to explore new and alternative revenue streams in depth (such as the state's fund reserves); and
- (3) garner political support from state representatives.

A County-wide Advisory Committee will provide the long-term guidance we need to address the systemic educational problems in our region. Moreover, this Committee will serve to examine county-wide strategies for fully understanding the numbers, reducing the deficit, establishing a realistic time-line, avoiding school closures if possible, and proposing creative long-term solutions to declining student populations and respective tax bases. Let's avoid this old story of pitting one school against another.

Volunteers to join this committee surround you tonight. Let our voices be heard and let us together think creatively and explore options.

Thank you.

Elizabeth R. Kirkwood
Elizabeth R. Kirkwood
Shawnee-on-Delaware, PA

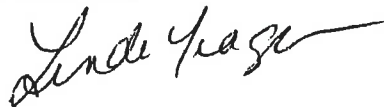
To: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District
Subject: **Vote against the closing of Smithfield Elem. and/or JM Hill Elem. Schools**
Letter: Greetings,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District.

Vote against the closing of Smithfield Elem. and/or JM Hill Elem. Schools

It is important to understand the ESASD is facing a projected deficit of approx. \$10 million. The closing of either or both of these schools would still leave an \$8 to \$9 million shortfall in the school district budget. We will not see a decrease in taxes, they are still going to increase!!

Sincerely,



532 Signatures

13 of 42

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Linda Yeager		2012-02-24
Jennifer Ace	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Jennifer Amori	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
vaughn cobb	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Scott Amori	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Cheryl Teke	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Gina Fish	Stroudsbrug, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Kevin Furst	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
James Fish	stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Darbi Dunning	e stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Midge McClosky	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Anne OBrian	Bushkill, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Toni-Ann Gilmore	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Anne McHale	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
andrea rimberg	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Patricia Briegel	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Kristen Klinger	Selinsgorve, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Brad Ace	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Joan Hough	Stroiudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
carolyn cobb	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Dina Bortnichak	Yardley, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Jennifer McMahon	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24

14 of 42

Name	Location	Date
Kerrie Curtis	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Judith Reinhardt	Henryville, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Amy Marasco	Shawnee on Delaware, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
John Curtis Jr	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Stephanie Patti	Shallotte, North Carolina, United States	2012-02-24
Ivana Custred	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
nikki perschy	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Crystal Lopez	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Allison Dorn	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Cheryl Sutliff	Shawnee on Delaware, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Jonathan Keiter	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Harry Butler	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
James Mauk	Talleyville, Delaware, United States	2012-02-25
Karen Meylrs	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Ted Terrill	Summerville, South Carolina, United States	2012-02-25
Denise Smith	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Shayna Smith	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Noah Corey	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Jonathan Rusk	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
phil basso	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25

15 of 42

Name	Location	Date
Casey Anne Athey	East Stroudsburg, United States Minor Outlying Islands	2012-02-24
Ruth Longo	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Mike Hennings	East stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Beatrice S. Gobee	Bushkill, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Nancy Robilotta	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Sapphire Serrano	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Holly Davis	Vancouver, Washington, United States	2012-02-24
Kelly Weaber	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Greg Yeager	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Jerry Athey	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Robin Farris	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Mike Wolbert	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Rebekah Imperato	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Chaney Keyes	Arlington, Texas, United States	2012-02-24
Jennifer Roddy	Lemon Grove, California, United States	2012-02-24
Ann Whitt	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Ryan Kassis	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Andrew Lynch	Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
William Edmondson	Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
lynn byrne	Cresco, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
BOB SMITH	EAST STROUDSBURG, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Jennifer Kavanaugh	Bushkill, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24

Name	Location	Date
Rob Longo	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
jeffrey lee	south carolina, South Carolina, United States	2012-02-24
Chris Burns	Shawnee on Delaware, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Anne Amundsen	Paoli, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Emily Cabral	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Matt Cawley	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Molly Italiano	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Meghan Hegarty	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Kristi Dellacons	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Tyler Kleinle	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Justin Fenner	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Brooke Butler	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Benjamin Golardi	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Olivia Ryan	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Jess Losgar	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
cathy gallagher	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Kayla Fish	Shawnee on Delaware, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Katherine Lichtenstein	E.Stbg., Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
Rhonda McCloughan	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24
jennifer curnow	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-24

Name	Location	Date
ToniAnn valdner	Kunkletown, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Chris McClosky	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Scott Roman	EAST STROUDSBURG, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Julia Lund	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
jeanene contreras	Danville, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
jeanie yeager	Mt Carmel, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Jennifer Carroll	Eglin AFB, Florida, United States	2012-02-25
donna baran	MARSHALLS CR, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
keith baran	MARSHALLS CR, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Kelly DeSantis (Cox)	Kingston, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
jared riegel	stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
George Power	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Lucy Contreras	Bakersfield, California, United States	2012-02-25
elisabeth claypotch	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
michael claypotch	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Chris Sassone	Bronx, New York, United States	2012-02-25
Alaina Schumann	South Amboy, New Jersey, United States	2012-02-25
John DeSantis	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Lathena power	bangor, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Lea Power Carpenter	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Brian Carpenter	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-25
Allison Blaszak	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
Jaymie Sorrentino	Effort, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26

Name	Location	Date
Kathryn Dempsey	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
Wendy Sheeran	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
KATRHYN Dempsey	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
Ashley Herbert	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
Aida Lopez	E. Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
Yvonne Booth	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
Linda Miller	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
William Miller	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
Rhonda Wright	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
BRian Labar	Hazleton, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
Patricia Bruzgulis	Hamburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
valerie pyle	Morris Plains, New Jersey, United States	2012-02-26
Alia Lambert	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
gina hennings	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-26
Dean Miller	Virginia Beach, Virginia, United States	2012-02-27
Deanna Lasher	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Dora Whittaker	Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Rick Strunk	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Angela Johnson	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
judy kintner	New Port Richey, Florida, United States	2012-02-27
catherine sutton	Hackettstown, New Jersey, United States	2012-02-27
ruth transue	Stroud Twp, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Violetta Zych	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27

Name	Location	Date
michelle DiMeo	high point, North Carolina, United States	2012-02-27
Jayson Halterman	Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Jessica Cross	EAST STROUDSBURG, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Alison Howey	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Kim DiCandia	Henryville, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Audrey Dickson	roudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Mark Schaller	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Jennifer marsh	East stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
astrid Goicoechea	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Jessica Gardner	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
amanda dutter	Tannersville, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Dina Rivera	Riverview, Florida, United States	2012-02-27
Elizabeth Arrigali	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
christina kovacs	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Chris Angelopoulos	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
lisa rivera	Staten Island, New York, United States	2012-02-27
christina vitale	east stroudsburg , Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Maranda Smith	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Denise Zall	E. Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
beth williams	Easton, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
Veronica Marsh	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-27
kenlynn dickison	estbg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28
adam janus	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28

Name	Location	Date
Christina Hahn	Bath, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28
Irma Maher	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28
Kathy Salerno	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28
Randy Smith	Burke, Virginia, United States	2012-02-28
Michele Brien	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28
William Pinkowski, Jr.	Johnstown, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28
Carolyn Starkes	Cresco, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28
Catherine Cary	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28
charles kresge	E.Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28
ed claypoole	manasquan, New Jersey, United States	2012-02-28
Anita Simonelli	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-28
Adriana Grecu	northampton, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Lynn Vander Schans	Swiftwater, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Joe Walsh	stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Emily Brooks	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Len Garrison	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
jennifer rice	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
robert rice, jr.	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Lynn Ames	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Mandy Keiper	Sun River, Montana, United States	2012-02-29
kimberly hughes	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Kristin Mortensen	McKean, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Jennifer Hughes	Kutztown, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29

21 of 42

Name	Location	Date
Jenifer Thundercloud	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Chris Joyce	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Deborah Honsberger	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Charles Daniel	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
nicole manfre	Port St Lucie, United States	2012-02-29
Prapti Patel	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-02-29
Jessica Corcoran	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-01
Tatiana Maria	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-01
Samantha Hartmann	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-01
Deborah Brooks	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-01
lisa sargent	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-01
denise loedel	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Christopher Loedel	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Enrique Loedel	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Sheyla Angelopoulos	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Kristen Perez	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Michael Perez	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
margaret toro	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Ed Rivera	New York, New York, United States	2012-03-02
Gladys Perez	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
jessica santiago	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Kristina Manning	Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02

Name	Location	Date
Crystal Rivera	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Diane Eilenberger	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Beth Lannon	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Carmen Rivera	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Judith Sitrine	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Angela Lampo	Milford, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Steven Gilmore	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
stephen washington	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Laurie Young	East stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Amy Famighetti	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Ed Roche	mt pocono, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Fikriye Ozgun	Dingmans Ferry, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Elika Almeida	Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Adam McGlynn	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Jen flowers	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Anna Coppola	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Leighanne Knospler	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Eric Carey	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
marie cole	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Carrie Panepinto	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Rolando Vecchio	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02

Name	Location	Date
Joanna Gambill	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
mandy cole	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Hans Friedli	Sisters, Oregon, United States	2012-03-02
glenn Peters	Blairstown, New Jersey, United States	2012-03-02
loretta Gricko	e. stbg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Devin Odom	e stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
al dimino	Lehman, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
linda seliger	e.stbg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Alison Crescente	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Wendy Turk	Tannersville, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Jacquelyn Black	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Steven Black	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-02
Shari Rivera	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Thomas Turk	Tannersville, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Kathleen Young	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Michael Steele	Morrice, Michigan, United States	2012-03-03
Danielle Park	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
debra griffith	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Sandy Tuxhorn	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Roy Niemann	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
melissa harman	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Anum Nasirullah	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03

Name	Location	Date
amanda musarra	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Willane Purnell	Weedville, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Nico Rodriguez	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
marlisa doleiden	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Kim Dugan	Henryville, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Fran Horton	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
bonnie houck	stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
david harman	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Katelyn Schoch	Freehold, New Jersey, United States	2012-03-03
Carol McNamee	Cocoa, Florida, United States	2012-03-03
Nancy Fish	Shawnee on Del, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Bonnie Mahar	E. Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Tracey Loscar	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Mary Horn	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Kristin Kozlowski	Jackson, New Jersey, United States	2012-03-03
John Lucas	sussex, New Jersey, United States	2012-03-03
Cynthia C. Way	Shawnee on Delaware, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Junius Clemmons	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Joe Gulden	Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Sandra Scranton	Morris Plains, New Jersey, United States	2012-03-03
Naiemah Swinton	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
John Robottom	Southport, United Kingdom	2012-03-03
Victoria Strunk	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03

Name	Location	Date
Liz Ackermann	Freehold, New Jersey, United States	2012-03-03
Elizabeth Cartiglia	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Tricia Novack	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Sharon Fahl	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
John Ball	Kane, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Christine Herbert	Bangor, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
George Walter	Horseheads, New York, United States	2012-03-03
Joann Wallie	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Deborah Ehling	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Grace Zelekovic	Little Silver, New Jersey, United States	2012-03-03
Jamie Skidmore	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Virginia Cummings	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Yelary Moronta	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-03
Kevin Smiley	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Amanda Kirkpatrick	Mountain Top, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
breanne brothers	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
CYNTHIA REVERE	ORLANDO, Florida, United States	2012-03-04
Jacky Blackledge	Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
crystal klinger	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Brandi Lucas	Pocono Lake, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Aaron Black	East stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Amber Harman	Pompano Beach, Florida, United States	2012-03-04
Kathleen Alkema	Stroudsburg,, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04

26 of 42

Name	Location	Date
deborah castillo	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Jessica Auster	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
kayla conklin	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Liliana Nowacki	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
william sullivan	bushkill, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Amanda Harrison	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Holly Freese	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Daina Pennino	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Marissa DeBenedictis	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
amanda schmitt	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Linda Huntley	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
jacob rickards	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Samone Guillaume	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
brandy womack	marshalls creek, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Susan Wynings	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
terilynn oconnor	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
April DeKalb	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
nicholas kanarr	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Brandon Hodakoski	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
William Frazetta	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04

27 of 42

Name	Location	Date
Alison Gray	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Amanda Hinline	West Palm Beach, Florida, United States	2012-03-04
josh smith	henreyville, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Stephen Rennekamp	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Jennifer Soto	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Sharon Valle	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Diane Gagnon	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Barbara Piccoli	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
nancy bledsoe	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Megan Bledsoe	whiting, New Jersey, United States	2012-03-04
Barbara Wells	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-04
Linda Lynch	Bushkill, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-05
Pamela McAndrew	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-05
KELSEY BOWER	EAST STROUDSBURG, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-05
Amber Wells	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-05
Mohsin Khawaja	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-05
Nicole Turtzo	prescott valley, Arizona, United States	2012-03-05
Heidi Gunther	Bushkill, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-05
Glenn Mosher	E.Stdg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-05
Jennifer sargent	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-05
Vincent Cisternino	Asbury, New Jersey, United States	2012-03-05
Abigayle Peters	Cincinnati, Ohio, United States	2012-03-05
Elizabeth Chatel	Fairfield, Connecticut, United States	2012-03-06
QUINNISHA THOMAS	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-06

Name	Location	Date
Gary Bledsoe	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-06
Donna dreier	Bushkill, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-06
Stephanie Leap	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-06
Concerned Citizen	New City, New York, United States	2012-03-06
james burek	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-06
jimmy george	North Tonawanda, New York, United States	2012-03-06
Leslie Arrington	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-07
Monique Luke	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-07
Lisa Flory	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-07
Georgia Kuczma	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-09
Barbara Dickinson	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-11
Shahida Jones	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-12
Richard Bush	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-12
milinda meade	east stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-13
Andrea Stiff	East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-13
Mary Anne Santana	Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, United States	2012-03-23

29 of 42

PETITION TO KEEP SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OPEN

Target: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District

In the 2012-13 School Budget proposal, The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District has included the possible closure of SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND/OR JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS which could severely impact the future of the East Stroudsburg Area School District.

Components of the proposal include:

- 1: Closing Smithfield Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary, Middle Smithfield Elementary and JM Hill Elementary.
- 2: Closing JM Hill Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Smithfield Elementary.
- 3: Closing BOTH SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Middle Smithfield Elementary Schools.

****It is important to understand the ESASD is facing a PROJECTED deficit of approximately \$10 MILLION! The closing of either or both of these schools would still leave an \$8 to \$9 million shortfall in the school district budget! WE WILL NOT SEE A DECREASE IN TAXES, THEY ARE STILL GOING TO INCREASE!!!****

By signing this petition you are stating you are against all three components of the proposal listed above. Please sign and list your current address below.

(4)

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 1. |
G. MT. VIEW CT.
E.S. PA. 18301 | 12. | |
| 2. |
287 REMINGTON RA.
ESTABG. PA. 18301 | 13. | |
| 3. |
157 WYNE MT RD
HENRYVILLE PA 18332 | 14. | |
| 4. |
2103 COMMONS CT
E. STROUDSBURG PA 18301 | 15. | |
| 5. | | 16. | |
| 6. | | 17. | |
| 7. | | 18. | |
| 8. | | 19. | |
| 9. | | 20. | |
| 10. | | 21. | |
| 11. | | 22. | |

**PETITION TO KEEP SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
OPEN**

Target: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District

In the 2012-13 School Budget proposal, The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District has included the possible closure of SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND/OR JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS which could severely impact the future of the East Stroudsburg Area School District.

Components of the proposal include:

1: Closing Smithfield Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary, Middle Smithfield Elementary and JM Hill Elementary.

2: Closing JM Hill Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Smithfield Elementary.

3: Closing BOTH SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Middle Smithfield Elementary Schools.

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By signing this petition you are stating you are against all three components of the proposal listed above. Please sign and list your current address below.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. <u>Kevin J. First</u> | 12. _____ |
| 2. <u>D. Williams</u> | 13. _____ |
| 3. <u>Ray Bonmarito</u> | 14. _____ |
| 4. <u>[Signature]</u> | 15. _____ |
| 5. <u>Fanny G. Altem</u> | 16. _____ |
| 6. <u>[Signature]</u> | 17. _____ |
| 7. <u>Rose Ann Whiteell</u> | 18. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 22. _____ |

7

**PETITION TO KEEP SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
OPEN**

Target: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District

In the 2012-13 School Budget proposal, The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District has included the possible **closure** of SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND/OR JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS which could severely impact the future of the East Stroudsburg Area School District.

Components of the proposal include:

1: Closing Smithfield Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary, Middle Smithfield Elementary and JM Hill Elementary.

2: Closing JM Hill Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Smithfield Elementary.

3: Closing BOTH SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Middle Smithfield Elementary Schools.

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By signing this petition you are stating you are against all three components of the proposal listed above. Please sign and list your current address below.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. <u>Randy E. Jish 815 Hollow Rd</u> | 12. _____ |
| 2. <u>Patricia Dicki 509 Hollow Rd.</u> | 13. _____ |
| 3. <u>Linda Hartman</u> | 14. _____ |
| 4. <u>Eileen DeLeon</u> | 15. _____ |
| 5. <u>Elysha M. Kukul ^{PO BOX 67} Shawnee PA</u> | 16. _____ |
| 6. <u>Sean Boyer</u> | 17. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 22. _____ |

⑥

**PETITION TO KEEP SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
OPEN**

Target: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District

In the 2012-13 School Budget proposal, The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District has included the possible closure of SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND/OR JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS which could severely impact the future of the East Stroudsburg Area School District.

Components of the proposal include:

1: Closing Smithfield Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary, Middle Smithfield Elementary and JM Hill Elementary.

2: Closing JM Hill Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Smithfield Elementary.

3: Closing BOTH SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Middle Smithfield Elementary Schools.

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By signing this petition you are stating you are against all three components of the proposal listed above. Please sign and list your current address below.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. <u>IVANA SKALKO, 74D ^{E. STROUDSBURG} ARROWWOOD DR.</u> | 12. _____ |
| 2. <u>Kubaly Cook 74B</u> | 13. _____ |
| 3. <u>Mark Cook 74B Arrowwood Dr.</u> | 14. _____ |
| 4. <u>Quin Ali 70D Arrowwood Dr.</u> | 15. _____ |
| 5. <u>Asha Moyer, 1036 SkyView Dr.</u> | 16. _____ |
| 6. <u>Terri Evans 860 Shawnee Valley</u> | 17. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 22. _____ |

(6)

PETITION TO KEEP SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OPEN

Target: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District

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Components of the proposal include:

1: Closing Smithfield Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary, Middle Smithfield Elementary and JM Hill Elementary.

2: Closing JM Hill Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Smithfield Elementary.

3: Closing BOTH SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Middle Smithfield Elementary Schools.

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By signing this petition you are stating you are against all three components of the proposal listed above. Please sign and list your current address below.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. <u>Kim Zied</u> | 12. _____ |
| 2. <u>John M. [unclear]</u> | 13. _____ |
| 3. <u>Lynne D. [unclear]</u> | 14. _____ |
| 4. <u>Angela [unclear]</u> | 15. _____ |
| 5. <u>Suzanne [unclear]</u> | 16. _____ |
| 6. <u>Alicia G. [unclear]</u> | 17. _____ |
| 7. <u>Roxanne Sharkey</u> | 18. _____ |
| 8. <u>Philip A. [unclear]</u> | 19. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 22. _____ |

8

PETITION TO KEEP SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OPEN

Target: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District

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- 2: Closing JM Hill Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Smithfield Elementary.
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By signing this petition you are stating you are against all three components of the proposal listed above. Please sign and list your current address below.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <p>1. <u>K. McLaughlin</u> 14 Spangenburg Ave
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301</p> | 12. _____ |
| <p>2. <u>[Signature]</u> 14 SPANGENBURG AVE
" "</p> | 13. _____ |
| <p>3. <u>Ed Magann</u> 15 Spangenburg
E. Stroudsburg</p> | 14. _____ |
| <p>4. <u>Joann Van Arken</u> "</p> | 15. _____ |
| <p>5. <u>Michael P. Murray</u> 4 Spangenburg Ave
E. Stroudsburg, PA</p> | 16. _____ |
| <p>6. <u>Steve Mike</u> 5 Spangenburg
E. Stroudsburg, PA</p> | 17. _____ |
| <p>7. <u>[Signature]</u> 20 Spangenburg
E. Stroudsburg, PA</p> | 18. _____ |
| <p>8. <u>[Signature]</u> 27 Spangenburg Ave
E. Stroudsburg</p> | 19. _____ |
| <p>9. <u>Mitchell Strunk</u> 35 Spangenburg Ave
E. Stroudsburg, Pa.</p> | 20. _____ |
| <p>10. <u>[Signature]</u></p> | 21. _____ |
| <p>11. <u>Les Berns</u> 81 Spangenburg</p> | 22. _____ |

11

PETITION TO KEEP SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OPEN

Target: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District

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By signing this petition you are stating you are against all three components of the proposal listed above. Please sign and list your current address below.

1. James P. Rabbit 204 Analomink St EBURG 12. _____
2. James P. Rabbit 204 Analomink St 13. _____
3. Dolores Kaiser 204 Analomink St 14. _____
4. [Signature] 701 Shawnee on Del, PA 18356 15. _____
5. Rhyle Cizy 200 Analomink St. 16. _____
6. Laura Masow-Cajazzo 200 Analomink St. 17. _____
7. Merron Begone 200 Analomink St. 18. _____
8. Sandra Jallao 19. _____
9. [Signature] 20. _____
10. [Signature] 196 ANALOMINK 21. _____
11. K. Debra Kleck 196 Analomink St. 22. _____

71

**PETITION TO KEEP SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
OPEN**

Target: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District

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2: Closing JM Hill Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary and Smithfield Elementary.

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By signing this petition you are stating you are against all three components of the proposal listed above. Please sign and list your current address below.

1. Patricia R. Davis
2. [Signature]
3. [Signature]
4. [Signature]
5. [Signature]
6. Tammy McKeon
7. [Signature]
8. Adrienne Jamieson
9. Elba Collopy
10. [Signature]
11. Samuel M. Olson

12. [Signature]
13. [Signature]
14. [Signature]
15. [Signature]
16. [Signature]
17. [Signature]
18. [Signature]
19. [Signature]
20. Kat Apple
21. Cheryl Miller
22. [Signature]

22

**PETITION TO KEEP SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
OPEN**

Target: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District

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1. Charles Cahn
2. Mark Stuart
3. Al So
4. Laurie Hamilton
5. esela Hamilton
6. Esterly Futura
7. Eraigne Zestovozj
8. Virginia Beckerson
9. Michael Jones
10. Kim Blomquist
11. Mary Walter

- 22
12. Alle Fuller
 13. Robert Little
 14. Kong-Qu Litta
 15. Edie East
 16. Louis Wasser
 17. Mara Kurtz
 18. Jamie Anuso
 19. Steve Ryan
 20. [Signature]
 21. Carol Petrucci
 22. William VanPort

PETITION TO KEEP SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OPEN

Target: The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District

In the 2012-13 School Budget proposal, The Board of Education of the East Stroudsburg Area School District has included the possible closure of SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY AND/OR JM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS which could severely impact the future of the East Stroudsburg Area School District.

Components of the proposal include:

- 1: Closing Smithfield Elementary and relocating students to East Stroudsburg Elementary, Middle Smithfield Elementary and JM Hill Elementary.
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**** It is important to understand the ESASD is facing a PROJECTED deficit of approximately \$10 MILLION! The closing of either or both of these schools would still leave an \$8 to \$9 million shortfall in the school district budget! WE WILL NOT SEE A DECREASE IN TAXES, THEY ARE STILL GOING TO INCREASE!!!!****

By signing this petition you are stating you are against all three components of the proposal listed above. Please sign and list your current address below.

22

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <u>Akiya Ogden 121 Magnolia Lane</u></p> <p>2. <u>Sekani Ogden 121 Magnolia Lane</u></p> <p>3. <u>Rob Bino 487 Sawdust Estates</u></p> <p>4. <u>Paul K Wilder</u></p> <p>5. <u>Ernest Leap 109 Cold Sp. Rd E Strbg PA 18301</u></p> <p>6. <u>Jennifer Jc 122 Big Ridge Drive E. Stroudsburg PA 18301</u></p> <p>7. <u>Jeremy Hawkins 220 Shawnee Valley</u></p> <p>8. <u>Danara Hawkins 220 Shawnee Valley</u></p> <p>9. <u>Jonna Parker</u></p> <p>10. <u>Joe Webb</u></p> <p>11. <u>Beth Moth 171 Little Creek Lane E. Stroudsburg PA 18301</u></p> | <p>12. <u>Benjamin Kaban 30 Lilac Dr.</u></p> <p>13. <u>Ryan Mayer 120 Magnolia Lane E. Stroudsburg PA 18301</u></p> <p>14. <u>Jim Mayer 120 Magnolia Lane</u></p> <p>15. <u>Mustafa Cherrif 24 Spangenberg E Stroudsburg</u></p> <p>16. <u>Constance Diggins 848 Broad St E. Stroudsburg</u></p> <p>17. <u>Robert Smith 819 Hollow Rd E. Stroudsburg PA 18301</u></p> <p>18. <u>Raymond S. Don 264 Boyell E. Strbg.</u></p> <p>19. <u>John 264 Boyell Lane E. Stroudsburg 92 Fern Rd</u></p> <p>20. <u>Carol East Stroudsburg</u></p> <p>21. <u>Anne Mettke Power 301 Remington Rd E Strbg 18301</u></p> <p>22. <u>Art D. Dun 13 K. wanis 18301</u></p> |
|---|--|

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- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. <u>Heather Marney</u> 113 Lilac DR
Eshby</p> <p>2. <u>Paula Caramella</u> 12711 Deer Path
2044 Connelwood Dr</p> <p>3. <u>Luz Johnson</u> ES. PA</p> <p>4. <u>W. Lanne</u> ES.
2088 Connelwood Ter.</p> <p>5. <u>Dina Juliano</u> AS
236 Cedar CT</p> <p>6. <u>Aronales</u> AS
127 Bayberry CT</p> <p>7. <u>Monsireta DeCinto</u> Stroudsburg
64 Kings ST
PO Box 18360</p> <p>8. <u>R. Bogart</u> AS</p> <p>9. <u>Janette Harlander</u>
403 main st. Stroudsburg</p> <p>10. <u>C. Carey</u> ES
117 Parkview Lane</p> <p>11. <u>T. Chopac</u> AS
254 Broadhead way</p> | <p>12. <u>S. Cooke</u> 1424 Pine Ridge e</p> <p>13. <u>Sue Rogers</u> 5107 Lincoln Lane, E. Stroudsburg</p> <p>14. <u>Mart Sello</u> 740 Merowind DR
E STROUDSBURG</p> <p>15. <u>Sabrina Kesvimer</u> 113 Magnolia Ln
E. Stroudsburg PA</p> <p>16. <u>L. Rose</u> 1244 Chateau DR.</p> <p>17. <u>Devon Guil</u> 413 Blue Mtn. Lake
E. Stroudsburg PA 18301</p> <p>18. <u>Monty Guil</u> 413 Blue Mtn. Lake
E. Stroudsburg PA 18301</p> <p>19. <u>W. Rose</u> 1244 Chateau DR Eshby PA</p> <p>20. <u>V. Traver</u> 129 White Pine Rd. 18302</p> <p>21. <u>H. Cruma</u> 240 Remington rd
East Stroudsburg PA 18301</p> <p>22. <u>Erin Cherif</u> 14 W Broad St E. Stroudsburg</p> |
|---|---|

40 of 42

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(22)

- 1. Dana Williams-Whitney
- 2. [Signature]
- 3. [Signature]
- 4. [Signature]
- 5. Shacey Frye
- 6. [Signature]
- 7. [Signature]
- 8. Corrie Huse
- 9. Shiley Stearns
- 10. [Signature]
- 11. Nancy M. Rees

- 12. Lisa Daneker
- 13. Eileen Cohen
- 14. Lisa Weiss
- 15. Michelle Karo
- 16. Marc Sheridan
- 17. [Signature]
- 18. Winona Whelpley
- 19. Terrie Woodward
- 20. [Signature]
- 21. Virginia Cummings
- 22. Gay Kelsley

Q

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- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <u>Sharon D Kalter</u> | 12. <u>Ch MD</u> |
| 2. <u>Kristine McHugh</u> | 13. <u>Susan Coakle</u> |
| 3. <u>Paul G. Jr</u> | 14. <u>Eric Young</u> |
| 4. <u>Kim Stump</u> | 15. <u>Kate Ferguson</u> |
| 5. <u>Jessi G. Rode</u> | 16. <u>Lori Smith</u> |
| 6. <u>Erin Toal</u> | 17. <u>Robert D Meyer</u> |
| 7. <u>Renee Zimmerman</u> | 18. <u>Joshua Lee</u> |
| 8. <u>Rita Ly Bender</u> | 19. <u>Jamant Jmt</u> |
| 9. <u>Julie A. ...</u> | 20. <u>Theresa Lester</u> |
| 10. <u>Candy Roby</u> | 21. <u>[Signature]</u> |
| 11. <u>nicole Klingel</u> | 22. <u>Maureen ...</u> |

22

Shawnee Preservation Society

PO Box 517
Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356

May 15 2012

Superintendent Sharon Laverdure
Board of Directors
East Stroudsburg Area School District
50 Vine St.
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Dear Superintendent Laverdure and ESASD Board of Directors:

This letter is written on behalf of the members of Shawnee Preservation Society. We are a grassroots organization with the mission of preserving, protecting, and improving the natural beauty of Shawnee on Delaware and the surrounding areas of Smithfield and Middle Smithfield townships. We have been following the discussion regarding the finding by the school board that a school will have to be closed—either J. M. Hill Elementary or Smithfield Elementary — in order to close the hole in the East Stroudsburg Area School District budget. As you are keenly aware, this is a difficult and important decision that will impact the lives of many people. We offer the following points to consider as you move forward with your decision-making process.

Schools are vital community anchors. Shawnee on Delaware is a very small community with only a few important landmarks to define us. Smithfield Elementary school is arguably the most important to give root to our community. While we would be sympathetic with those affected if J. M. Hill Elementary school were to close, the borough of East Stroudsburg has many community anchors. It is certain the community of East Stroudsburg would continue to thrive even if J. M. Hill Elementary were to close. If Smithfield Elementary school were to close it is likely to sit dormant and have a significant negative impact on our already struggling community.

The location of J. M. Hill Elementary school makes the potential for re-use much more attractive than Smithfield Elementary school. The J. M. Hill Elementary school facility could be converted into office space, an extension for the university or hospital, or truly unique residential space. The possibilities for the borough of East Stroudsburg are very exciting. There are numerous options that would make use of a great building in an ideal location and which would enhance the surrounding community. The Smithfield Elementary school location is not likely to generate much interest for development/re-use.

J. M. Hill Elementary school needs to be renovated. The most efficient way to accomplish that would be to close the school. If J. M. Hill Elementary school remains open, the students, families, and staff would have to endure the renovation process for an extended period while

1 of 2
Mission

The Shawnee Preservation Society (SPS) is an incorporated, not-for-profit, voluntary group of concerned citizens, seeking to preserve, protect and improve the natural beauty, historic features and quality of life in Shawnee On Delaware, Pennsylvania and the surrounding areas of Smithfield and Middle Smithfield Townships, by balancing growth with the preservation of a sustainable community for future generations.

Shawnee Preservation Society

PO Box 517

Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356

substantial updating is done. If a re-use project is proposed, it would make perfect sense to customize the space at the same time for the new use. The logical course is to close the school, make the needed updates and renovate it for a new purpose.

Smithfield Elementary school has already been recently renovated. Significant funds were put in to expand and update our school. If Smithfield Elementary were to close and the building was not able to be reused, those funds are essentially lost. As taxpayers, we feel the district would do well to keep this building in use due to the significant investment already made in it.

Because of the renovation and expansion of Smithfield Elementary, our school has a better capacity to absorb reassigned students from a closing elsewhere and to accommodate new residents moving to the area. J. M. Hill Elementary school is nearly at capacity already and if renovations are to be completed, this will further cramp students and staff at that location. Additionally, growth is certain to return to our area. While population increase has slowed and reversed a bit during this economic downturn, once the recovery becomes stronger, we can expect a return to some growth. East Stroudsburg is essentially built out and has limited opportunity for new growth. The areas of Shawnee and the surrounding townships of Smithfield and Middle Smithfield still have numerous open areas that are likely to be developed in coming years. As you may know, the Shawnee Valley PRD is a large, approved residential development plan very near to Smithfield Elementary school. This anticipated future growth is a crucial factor that the school district must plan for.

In closing, we regret that either community will be impacted by this decision. We appreciate the difficult position the ESASD school board is in. However, we feel that the facts above point to a better overall outcome if Smithfield Elementary school remains open. We respectfully ask that you carefully consider these vital issues.

If we can be of any assistance regarding this issue, or any future need, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely,

Ann Ligí, President

Shawnee Preservation Society

(570-424-7868)

2 of 2

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