

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Where's money going?

To the editor:

When you think about how a school should use your taxpayer dollars, what comes to mind?

Most people would agree it should be spent on things that help students learn such as supplies, technology and staff. The last Kiel School Board meeting revealed a new line item in our school budget. Money is being spent to cover the costs of open records requests from members of the Tri-County Citizens.

The Tri-County Citizens or TCC is a political group. They are the ones who last spring organized five school board candidates in order to force a primary. The special primary cost the district nearly \$2,000 and failed to eliminate any of the incumbent candidates. Then Kiel witnessed the most expensive school board race in the history of our community. This time, in the words of one of the new board members, they were successful in "taking over the board."

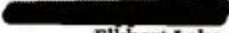
For the past year, the TCC has bombarded the district with open records requests. They have requested tens of thousands of e-mails as well as thousands of learning materials. Satisfying these types of requests costs money and time. One of their requests would have cost over \$100,000 to comply with. Luckily that request was dropped. At the last School Board

meeting, \$15,000 was authorized to pay the district's lawyers to deal with the backlog of requests. The School Board will also look into hiring additional staff to meet these requests.

What do the Tri-County Citizens hope to find? Board member Meyer commented that none of the TCC requests deal with the education of students. They apparently are searching for the issues their candidates ran on and reliving the threats of violence our community endured last spring. Interestingly, no pornography has been found, and the anti-harrassment and bully curriculum that the TCC claimed would be unusable because it was filled with critical race theory passed with the support of three board members who are endorsed by the TCC.

The time and money being consumed by these requests is concerning. However, I was shocked to learn that members of the Tri-County Citizens have now begun an effort to remove Kiel's superintendent. At some point our community will need to decide if it will allow the TCC to continue to bully us with their political agenda, or do we want our district focused on the learning of our students.

Respectfully,

  
Elkhart Lake

Note: this individual's residence is outside of the KASD