

VOTE JEFF FLINT & RON MILLER FOR SCHOOL BOARD

By: **Jeff Flint** "*Candidate for School Board*" - Vote in the **February 21st** primaries

The Dawn of a New Day in the River Valley

If we act quickly, it can be the dawn of a bright new day in the River Valley for all of us. We have never done any branding or marketing of our school district to attract new enrolment and we have never done any comprehensive economic development plan to jump start our economy, help existing businesses and draw new business and opportunities to the River Valley. We must win the three school board seats up for election and "Recall" the other four school board members that voted to consolidate the school district into Spring Green for the sake of our children, our families and our communities. The school board is like a giant millstone around our school districts neck. But, if we act now, we can cast off this millstone and transform this school district in as little as 1 year, reinvigorating our communities, dramatically improving education for our children and finally setting this school district and our communities on a sustainable and ever improving trajectory so we can all sleep well at night.

If we don't act now, we will squander the opportunity so many worked so hard to create over the last year. It will be a slow, tedious, agonizingly difficult process rooting out all the bad actors as they maneuver and obfuscate and squander the districts resources desperately trying to hang on to power with no guarantee of success. What you witnessed with the dog and pony show at the elementary school sessions last February will become common going forward. Frustrating dumb that makes no sense, because it doesn't have to. If we don't recall now, we never will. The only alternative will be a slow agonizingly difficult process as you fight one pointless, stupid battle after another, desperately trying to gain control of the school board little by little or convince people who really, truly don't care what they do to your communities, your children or your families, that they should. Remember legally they don't have to and they made this quite clear over the last couple months. They really don't care how much devastation they bring to our communities and families. I don't think they could have made this any clearer to us.

The superintendent also made this perfectly clear at all the information sessions that "he gets it", he said over and over that there will be social, emotional and economic pain from his plan to completely consolidate the school district into Spring Green. He did not dispute any of the facts that property values will drop 20-30%, property Taxes will go up and local businesses and residents will move out. He "gets it" and yet he has no other plan and

doesn't plan on having any other plan to deal with "declining enrolment" in any other way than actually making declining enrolment dramatically worse and dealing a death blow to our communities. What most people don't realize is that he doesn't have to have any other plan. The Administration is only in power because they control the school board. The only thing the Administration actually fears is losing control of the current school board or a "New" school board with a radically different agenda that doesn't listen to them and actually listens to the people, doing its job of running the school district in the best interests of the children, families and communities.

The law only states, and requires, that a school district have a local hearing on school closure. The law does **NOT** require the school board to listen to the people or consider their input. The school board **can disregard** the will of the people any time it chooses. That's why the Administration really doesn't care what we think because they and the school board don't have to. All the administration needs to do is control the school board.

[The following is a quote from a report published in the "Journal of Research in Rural Education" that nicely sums things up:](#)

"Citizens, however, typically act in accordance with an **understandable illusion**. In consolidation battles, they believe that they live in a democracy and that their voices in such matters are entitled to be heard and heeded. They do not realize that both **court rulings** and legislation clearly define school districts as governmental entities in which **citizens actually have few vested rights**. States have the clear authority to create and abolish districts, as districts have the clear authority to create and abolish schools with minimal input from the public (Howley, 1993). This explains why citizens often feel that local hearings on school closure are perfunctory exercises: They often are, because the law requires **only** that such a hearing be **held**. Consideration or disregard of input provided is almost always within the discretion of the relevant authority. **Listening** at a hearing, in short, **is not required**; if the law gives the impression that citizens **will** be listened to, **the illusion conveniently serves vested interests** (cf. Kemmis, 1990)."

This is exactly why we must replace the three school board candidates up for re-election on April 4 and Recall the other four that voted to consolidate the school district into Spring Green. **Vote for Jeff Flint & Ron Miller** in the all-important **February 21st** primary that will determine which candidates will be on the **April 4th** school board election ballot. Then, on **April 4th** vote in the School board elections and we will give you back your school district and open the process up to the people. If Jeff Flint, Ron Miller and Dan McGuire win on April 4th, we three plus the two remaining school board members who voted no to the school closings will have a majority day one and can immediately reverse the school closures and give you back your school district and your future.