

LOW TAXES ARE THE RESULT OF LOW SPENDING

The Bow Times

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EDITORIAL

Is the Sky the Limit for School Superintendent Compensation?

According to the New Hampshire Department of Education's 2017-18 Roster of School Superintendents there are 82 full-time Superintendents. A few of the small School Administrative Units or SAU's have hourly or part-time Superintendents. That total comes to 15. Of the 82 full timers, 74 have salaries over \$100,000 and only 8 are paid below \$100,000.

Examples of the high end are Timberlane (\$165,909), Nashua (\$158,750) and Manchester (\$165,000).

The Bow/Dunbarton SAU has a Superintendent with a salary of \$137,015, but that is only part of the story. The package of benefits for Bow's Superintendent includes health insurance coverage (\$22,466), dental (\$1,980), retirement and an annuity payment of \$24,768 and FICA of \$10,482. When these and other benefits are added up they come to \$197,743 or just shy of \$200,000.

Should the school compensation continue on ever upward past \$200,000 or \$300,000 in total compensation? Have our "public servants" been given a limitless claim on the taxpayers?

Apparently, the answer is, yes.

In July, another 2% pay raise will put Bow's Superintendent over \$200,000, in total compensation. The President makes \$400,000.

Back in March, I wrote to every SAU board member in Bow and Dunbarton asking them to vote to cap the SAU compensation at \$200,000 which seemed reasonable given that the median family income in Bow is \$120,648.

A deafening silence came after my letter suggested the \$200,000 cap. The docile school boards just don't care about Bow's current situation and thus enable this endless call on tax dollars.

The model for limitless public servant compensation is Bell, California with a per capita income of only \$24,800. It had city councilors paid \$100,000 a year for a meeting once a month. The City Manager, Robert Rizzo, was earning \$800,000 to run a city of 35,864 people. Then came the indictments. (If you think I'm kidding, Google Bell, CA.)

Our Superintendent lives in Meredith where the tax rate is only \$15.23 a thousand or about half of Bow's rate. He could set an example as a selfless public servant by writing the SAU board and agreeing that \$200,000 is adequate for our little communities and he waives his 2% July raise. That is unless the SAU board chooses to act in the meantime.

Don't hold your breath for either event.

*Chuck Douglas
For a free press, je suis Charlie*

JUNE SURVEY

Should teachers trained in the proper use of firearms be able to bring guns to school (if properly secured) to defend against a shooter?

YES NO

GO TO www.thebowtimes.com

and select **JUNE SURVEY**

Results are tabulated by the national survey company
Survey Monkey, not by this paper.

THE ARMED CITIZEN

In South Carolina, an alleged burglar who broke a window and tried to enter a Greenville County home was shot by the armed homeowner. Police documents say the suspect was armed with a knife and threatened the lives of the people in the home before one of them shot in self-defense. The trespasser, who was charged with burglary and related crimes, is reported to have been released from jail on parole several weeks before the incident.

(foxcarolina.com, Greenville, S.C., 3/20/18)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
Your editorial on I-89's Exit 1 is spot on. That is, by far, the most dangerous intersection in the state.

Trent Spinner, Executive Editor
Union Leader

Dear Editor:

This is in regard the I-89 crash killing the nice young man from Concord. What a tragedy - an unnecessary death by a drunk driver.

Why have we not read anything about the driver who killed Tyler Shaw? Absolutely nothing and I don't understand why. He lived, and innocent Tyler is gone. This guy was as drunk as a skunk, obviously going way, way over the speed limit and we hear nothing? I don't understand. This man must know someone in the ranks who is keeping this hush hush. I cannot imagine what Tyler's family is going through - they have lost their son, brother, nephew, grandson and this guy is walking free. Why? It is not fair and I would like to see something in the Bow Times addressing this.

I have not gone onto 89 from Logging Hill for over 20+ years. Anyone who does is taking their life in their hands. It is a death trap. I think the Bow exit off 93 onto 89 is also dangerous. Both should be closed. To get onto 93, we go to Cimos at the end of South Street then to Rockingham then to 93.

When I am coming to Bow down 89 from the Clinton Street area, I drop to the speed limit as stated. I have people honking then horns at me, giving me the finger as they drive by me going 75+ MPH. Something needs to be done and I feel the state needs to start revamping those areas IMMEDIATELY. There are other road areas that are being worked on that are not a hazard like the Bow ramps are. And in the meantime have speed bumps there - the state needs to do something - ASAP.

Name withheld

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

We may have all come
on different ships,
but we're in the
same boat now.

Martin Luther King, Jr.