

PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 8

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PRAIRIE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Open Letter to Chenoa Citizens

Of

Prairie Central CUSD #8
Residing in McLean County
October 5, 2018

PRAIRIE CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

800 NORTH WOOD
FORREST, ILLINOIS 61741
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Dear Citizens,

Three years ago, an error was made by the McLean County Clerk's office in calculating the tax extension for Prairie Central's 2015 series bonds (working cash). If this pertains to you, you would have recently received a letter regarding this from the Clerk's office. The result of this error was an under-extension of \$225,551. The Board of Education decided that recovering the entire uncollected amount the following year would essentially double the bond rate and, as such, overly-burden Chenoa-McLean tax-payers in a single tax year. It opted to collect half of the amount (\$112,760) in each of the succeeding two (2) years. This plan was successfully negotiated with the Clerk's office.

Unfortunately, the same error was made the next year in calculating Chenoa-McLean's bond extension. Although the make-up rate ("half" of the rate missed the past year) was assessed, the original bond rate of approximately .75 was not. The under-collection resulting from that year's calculation was \$248,882. This additional error severely limited the Board's options of collecting this tax money without over-burdening the taxpayers. Although the Board chose not to collect ALL of these taxes, those residing in the Chenoa-McLean area will still face an abnormally high bond rate next year. *Please note, this is *not more* than you would have paid, it is actually *LESS* than the rest of the District, it will simply have to be paid in one larger portion. Also please know that because of this error, tax law, and a decision by the Board of Education to avoid what they considered "unfair" taxation, the District will "lose out" on approximately \$115,000. Again, this decision was made to ease the burden of our Chenoa-McLean taxpayers, and the entire Prairie Central district.

At this time, it is not possible to give an accurate estimation of your tax extension for next year regarding this error. The McLean County Clerk has advised us that they will give us this information sometime in December or January, at which time we will pass it on to you through our website and newsletter.

Again, this is in regards to the current (2015) working cash bond. All other taxes should be assessed as planned. We are *very sorry* for the inconvenience their error may cause you. Please be assured that each property tax-payer supporting Prairie Central CUSD #8 will contribute his, and only his, ordained share of the 2015 series bond. The difference is that the Chenoa-McLean payer's portion is "back loaded" (heavy at the end) at this time.

Please direct any questions to this office. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,



Paula H. Crane, Superintendent

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