

What Forty Cents Can Buy You in November

To the editor,

I will be voting YES on the school bond because the facts are these: on a \$100,000 house, the tax increase for the bond will be \$145.00 a year at the most. That's \$12.08 a month, or \$.40 a day. That's it. Once you vote on a bond, no one can raise the dollar amount without voter approval. The opportunity for this new start for all valley kids is worth forty cents a day.

After twenty years, Conway will own the high school as well as the renovated middle school. Conway will own all of the athletic fields for community recreation events, the performance hall for use by choral groups, dance troupes and band concerts and the facility itself for the expanding adult education program that currently operates out of Kennett High School in the evening. Conway will own it all. The tuition contracts will have paid for the ongoing maintenance of the facilities throughout those twenty years. This is, indeed, the sweetest deal Conway voters can hope to get. We have seven towns who have agreed to this arrangement and many will pay more in tax increases than Conway. For that reason alone, don't expect that all towns will reach this agreement again. This is the opportunity.

If you are still unsure, please come and spend lunch duty with me in the cafeteria this week. I supervise a lunch for more than 280 kids which means not all of them can be seated at the same time. The facility conditions at Kennett High School are intolerable. We are on warning for school accreditation based solely on facility issues. If Conway voters think they can simply shut out the sending towns and make this problem go away, then they haven't investigated the facts. We have an antiquated electrical system that must be fixed; we have inadequate science labs; we have asbestos that must be removed and a continual struggle to maintain healthy air quality in this poorly designed building. The repairs will be costly. Conway has to fix the problem and if they fund it all by themselves, tax increases will be higher than if we approve the bond. It may not be what you want to hear, but it is the truth.

Make an informed decision on November 4th. For forty cents a day, I'm voting for a school for all of the kids in this valley. What will you spend your forty cents on?

Penny Kittle
Kearsarge