

August 29, 2019

From the Rochester-Stockbridge Unified District Board: Our Education Tax is Resolved

The RSUD School Board of Directors, the White River Valley Supervisory Union and Agency of Education have completed their review of the Equalized Pupil count. This number is utilized by the Agency of Education and State Department of Taxes to set the educational tax rate for each district. The Board is pleased to announce that the review resulted in a positive change for the resident property owners of our towns and that the reduced tax rates have been provided to both the Rochester and Stockbridge Town Clerks so that corrected tax bills will be provided to resident property owners.

The corrected rates are: \$1.499 for Rochester property holders and \$1.6481 for Stockbridge property owners. Based on the corrected numbers, the RSUD budget does not exceed the spending cap and therefore the penalties associated with that cap have been removed. These rates are in fact lower than the rates anticipated by the passage of the 2019-2020 school budget in May of this year, which were Rochester at \$1.5119 and Stockbridge at \$1.6614.

Getting to this positive result involved long hours for board members, administrative staff, and the business office of the SU in reviewing and checking three years of enrollment data and ongoing discussions with the Agency of Education finance staff. The Board and SU recognize that this has been a difficult process for our towns and fellow community members, but we are very pleased with the final outcome.