

At the November 2013 Board meeting after many months of discussion, the Greater Latrobe School Board approved a lease with Verizon to install antennas on the senior high school rooftop—two sets of antennas on sled/ballast mounts and one set to be attached to the penthouse façade. Once the Board approved the lease, Verizon assumed responsibility for permitting, installation, etc. At no time, including now, does the Board believe that there are any harmful effects to the students, staff, or community from these antennas. In fact, we believe, to some extent, that these antennas serve as a community support for emergency personnel and individuals needing cell service, as well as generate a small revenue stream for the District.

Verizon singled out the school district more than a year ago with the understanding that public school districts are often approached because of the revenue it generates for the taxpayers. In fact, during the 2011 budget process where we needed to cut over \$2 million in expenses due to decreased state funding, it became even more apparent that public school districts need to seek alternative sources of revenue. In addition, several school districts in Allegheny County and around the state have had cell phone antennas for many years. In the last few weeks, the issue has drawn some attention, implying that an antenna may impair the health and safety of students and staff. Greater Latrobe School Board does not believe that the antennas pose any health or safety risks.

However, the District has decided to ask Verizon not to appeal the Zoning Board's decision even though it means a loss of annual revenue. Our core mission is to provide superior educational programming to Greater Latrobe students, and we believe we provide this service. The District's intention is not to create or perpetuate any health/safety fear, even though the District believes the fear is not warranted. Therefore, the District will contact Verizon and ask that they not appeal the decision. We will, however, continue to seek alternative sources of revenue.