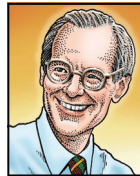


# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Hill School 990

Although Pottstown is struggling with a steadily declining tax base, the borough's largest property owner is growing.

According to its most recent available tax return, The Hill School is valued at more than \$255 million, including investments and real estate.



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

The school serves a mostly affluent population. About 60 percent of its 520 students' families pay full tuition of \$38,400 (\$55,660

for boarders).

The school is owned and operated by its alumni. It receives millions of dollars in donations annually from its constituency of alumni, parents and friends.

Because The Hill School is recognized by the Commonwealth as a charity, it pays no real estate taxes on its main campus.

Otherwise, The Hill School would have the largest tax bill in Pottstown, more than \$2.2 million annually.

Meanwhile, the Pottstown School District, which levies the 12th highest taxes in Pennsylvania, serves a student population which is about 67 percent low income.

The Hill School's tax-exempt status is not limited to real estate taxes. As a charitable organization recognized by the IRS, The Hill School pays no income or capital gains taxes on its investments, which number in the tens of millions of dollars.

Donors to The Hill School receive a deduction on their income taxes for their gifts.

The Hill School is also able to issue tax-exempt bonds through local government agencies. Since 2005, the school has issued millions of dollars in such bonds.

The IRS requires charitable organ-

izations like The Hill School to file annual tax returns, called Form 990s, which are public documents. They contain a wealth of information and can be found on the Internet.

*Tom Hylton is a member of the Pottstown School Board. However, the views expressed are his alone and not the board's.*

### The Hill School Expenditures

Fiscal year ending June 30	
2009	\$29,709,248
2010	\$30,062,148
2011	\$31,044,488
2012	\$31,939,671
2013	\$33,844,355
2014	\$35,915,744
2015	\$38,074,129

### The Hill School gifts received

Fiscal year ending June 30	
2009	\$5,204,666
2010	\$5,845,679
2011	\$5,731,889
2012	\$10,827,955
2013	\$9,572,513
2014	\$17,856,565
2015	\$12,872,662

### The Hill School Endowment

Fiscal year ending June 30	
2009	\$91,228,034
2010	\$100,279,696
2011	\$120,353,989
2012	\$119,157,555
2013	\$128,254,123
2014	\$158,653,729
2015	\$155,501,084

#### **HILL SCHOOL FAST FACTS:**

**100+ acre campus (tax exempt)**

**520 students, co-ed**

**26 states**

**20 foreign countries**

**Day tuition: \$38,400**

**Boarding tuition: \$55,660**