In 2016, the Pottstown School Board and the Foundation for Pottstown Education approved a program to offer professional staff a five-year, $10,000 forgivable loan to buy a home in Pottstown. The money can be used toward a down payment, closing costs, and renovations for a first-time Pottstown homebuyer. If the staff member lives in the home for at least five years, the loan will be forgiven. If the staff member moves or leaves the district prior to five years, a proportionate portion of the loan must be paid back.

Nearly three years later, just six professional staff members have taken advantage of the offer. Purchase prices ranged from $94,000 to $210,000.

It’s unfortunate so few teachers are interested in buying here. Only about 15 percent of our teachers and other professional staff live in the borough. Teachers and administrators are far more likely to understand and appreciate our students and our families if they live among us.

Our professional staff have among the best-paying jobs in Pottstown, and they could help us economically if they own homes here. They will also be helping the planet, because walking and bicycling are much more environmentally friendly than driving cars to school and other activities.