

Implores Board to Keep Open Mind

To the Editor:

It has been stated all along that one of the contingencies to reconfiguration is that bus routes will be 45 minutes or less. Of course this can be achieved but at what cost?

To reach this goal, the Board of Education is sending our youngest, K-2, to school 35 minutes earlier to start at 8:20 a.m., shortening the school days at the middle and high school levels and increasing the traffic and emissions in our communities by increasing the number of buses.

At a time when music and computer specials are being reduced in the elementary schools in order to increase the children's classroom time, it seems illogical to reduce the school day at the middle and high schools for the sole purpose of accommodating a three-tier busing schedule.

We all need to make some sacrifices to fix the problems at Region 14, but when are the costs to our children too much?

As more details about the implementation of reconfiguration are becoming available, I implore the Board of Education to keep an open mind and continually reassess this decision.

If the costs outweigh the benefits, it may be prudent to take a step back rather than force this plan to work no matter what the sacrifices are.

We can look to history at the Bay of Pigs incident in Cuba as a lesson of following a recommendation without enough questioning.

Details were changed along the way and the plan was still pursued but with detrimental results. It was a fiasco and an embarrassment to the JFK administration.

Let's make sure we are challenging this reconfiguration every step of the way and doing what is truly best for our children.

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