

Favors Referendum

To the Editor:

On December 15, the Region 14 Board of Education voted 6-2 in favor of appealing the court decision reversing Reconfiguration.

The six board members voting in favor spoke about the benefits brought about by the action that reconfigured our schools - some educational, some fiscal.

The two members who broke ranks to vote against an appeal spoke about the need to consider the expense to the community, the opportunity to heal the long-standing rift that Reconfiguration has caused, the near impossibility of winning an appeal and, most importantly, the need to allow our two towns the vote they have asked for since the plan was proposed.

None of the board members voting to appeal spoke of legal justification as yet unheard by the court that might deny a referendum. No new strategy was unveiled.

In fact, Dr. Cronin has stated in court that overcrowding was the driving force behind Reconfiguration. Overcrowding has been eliminated by students and families leaving Region 14; thus the reason to reconfigure has left with them.

In the end, it makes no difference whether or not Reconfiguration has succeeded or failed. Those arguments are irrelevant.

Implementing Reconfiguration without having had the required referendum is the issue ruled on by the judge.

I would ask all concerned to convey that point to the six board members who are willing to drive the litigation cost to our two communities well past the \$100,000 mark in order to temporarily extend their agenda without our approval.

Reconfiguration has been in place for nearly 3 years, long enough for its alleged benefits to manifest themselves and prove its viability.

It's time to let the people show how they feel about it through the referendum this board has denied them, the referendum the court has ruled they must have.

Jim Conway

Woodbury