

## Detrimental and Costly

To the Editor:

Last October my step-daughter had an urgent request. "The Board of Education is going to reconfigure the schools!" I had no idea what she was talking about, but my wife and I knew that she must have cause to make such a request.

At the meeting, a number of people stood up and spoke about the "boldness" of the board and the "vision" of Dr. Cronin, but actually said very little about the benefits of the huge undertaking.

More people brought up the shortcomings of the plan and I found myself realizing that they were making a number of valid points.

We left the meeting feeling that here was a reasonable group of people, with reasonable objections about reconfiguration, voicing their concerns to another reasonable group of people.

I was confident that logic would prevail and the board would rethink their decision. It should only take a couple of meetings to resolve the issue. After all, these are real problems, easily dwarfing any alleged benefits; surely, they will see their error.

Six months later, a growing number of citizens are still bringing the problems with reconfiguration to the board. Busing, shortened school days, increased class size, hidden cost, etc. They remained unmoved, the torrent of facts flowing around them like boulders in a river.

I have completely lost my faith in the board's ability to view this plan from a rational perspective. I do not know what force binds them to this ill-conceived plan.

If you are getting into your car and a passerby brings to your attention a flat tire, do you drive off unheeding? Of course not. Yet the BOE careens down the road to reconfiguration in the face of a mountain of information that it is detrimental to our children and costly to our community in immeasurable ways.

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