

Notes Chair's Communication

To the Editor:

It appears to this observer that the credibility of the Region 14 Board of Education chairman may be suspect.

In his 2001 response to BES principal Mary Smith's abrupt decision to implement an additional afternoon kindergarten class, then Vice-Chairman Howard said, "I wish it could have been done in a smoother fashion where there would have been less negative impact on the students and their families." [Voices Sunday, Weekly Star, 12-30-01, page 1]

In his 2002 Board of Education exit interview with Voices Sunday, John is quoted as saying, "All of our administrators have to be held up to the light.

"But parents and other critics should communicate concerns to school principals, the superintendent and the school board.

Mr. Howard went on to say, "All too often, when faced with continuing crisis management, the school board doesn't have time to plan. You're so busy putting out fires, you can't give attention to planning." [Weekly Star, 5-5-02, page 5]

In 2007 Chairman John Howard, in response to pleas from hundreds of Region 14 parents requesting of the board that their concerns be addressed and that further planning transpire before committing to the reconfiguration plan, states, "...it is within [the board's] legal bounds to implement the [reconfiguration] plan, and it [the board] is not authorized to delegate this duty directly to town residents" [Waterbury Republican-American, 4-4-07, page 1].

I eagerly await your next tune, Mr. Howard.

Joseph R. Crocco

Bethlehem