

Concentrate Power  
on Positive Change

To the Editor:

In Region 14, we will be using the remainder of our current school year to "practice" dismissing our elementary school children in waves.

Current dismissal is now roughly ten minutes; students are dismissed simultaneously. Bethlehem Elementary just started dismissing in two waves of ten minutes each, with eight buses. Doesn't this now cut the current elementary day by ten minutes?

How long will dismissal take next year with 18 buses and additional waves? School days will now be cut in the elementary, middle and high schools in order to make busing work.

Next year we can look forward to an exponentially longer dismissal time and upwards of 45 minutes each way on a bus for our youngest students in the region. At what point does this school administration have to admit that their plan is ludicrous?

Most people are not aware that the school budget, although itemized, is simply a means for this same administration to be given \$28,950,778 of our tax money to spend as they see fit. Within that budget, they have the power to move money and make cuts as they please. If the budget were voted down, the current administration would, by law, still have the \$27,674,699 we gave them last year to spend as they see fit.

In the very near future Woodbury and Bethlehem will have the opportunity to do two far more important things - replace half the Region 14 Board of Education in the June elections and amend our regionalization plan so that current and future administrations do not have the ability to inflict changes that affect families and property values in the region without voter consent.

I urge all registered voters to concentrate their power on affecting positive change rather than once again being led down the garden path.

Kurt Gengenbach  
Woodbury