

IS REVENGE MOTIVE CLOUDING JUDGMENT ON RECONFIGURATION?

In his Jan. 18 letter, "Reconfiguration corrects unfairness in district schools," Dr. James G. Uberti incorrectly states "class sizes at Mitchell (Elementary School in Woodbury) nearly double the average class size of Bethlehem Elementary School." To the contrary, the average class size at Mitchell is about 18, roughly the same as Bethlehem.

Furthermore, as far as the "enriching academic experience" referenced in the letter, it is worth pointing out the recommended class sizes in Superintendent Robert D. Cronin's Oct. 4 reconfiguration proposal represent an increase for about 81 percent of the classes at Mitchell, with the other 19 percent remaining the same.

Similarly, the recommendations represent an increase for about 78 percent of the classes at Bethlehem, with 11 percent remaining the same and 11 percent decreasing.

Dr. Uberti should take the time to read the relevant public documents and get a better understanding of the facts before endorsing a plan that ultimately will bus more than 400 children, forcing most of them to spend at least an hour and a half round trip on a bus, with no meaningful educational benefit.

Moreover, Dr. Uberti's reference to past failed referendums and his blaming them on Bethlehem voters is indicative of the underlying motive of revenge that seems to have clouded the judgment of many reconfigurationists.

My guess is Dr. Uberti, a Woodbury resident, has no K-2 children who will be subjected to this ridiculous plan and bused up to Bethlehem to exact such revenge. However, I do.

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