

Reconfiguration Affects Property Values

To the Editor:

Will it effect property values when a town doesn't have its own K-5 school and its youngest children are bused at 45 or more to attend school in another town?

My sister is vice president of a large commercial bank in central Florida where she counsels customers in real-estate transactions, commercial and personal. She travels to Connecticut often, grew up here and knows the area well enough to assist her customers in purchasing property here.

Recently she was looking for a large family home in the Woodbury-Bethlehem area. She also learned of the BOE reconfiguration plan proposed for Region 14. She listened to many points, both for and opposed. She absorbed a great deal and felt she could give a fair and impartial opinion.

Returning to Florida, she informed this family, with school-age children, she had found several beautiful homes that would be perfect. These homes were new, large family homes with more land than most homes in Florida. She then explained the proposed "reconfiguration plan" to them as honestly and unbiased as she could.

Halfway through, they stopped her and asked, why would we move to one town only to bus some of our children to another town? She said there are people who think this is a good plan that will benefit the schools and the children, they simply said "we are not those people. We want our children to have the best education possible, this is not what's best for our family."

She has found them a beautiful home in another town and yes they are very happy with the school system. I'm sure a lot of people are wondering if this plan will affect their property values or the potential sale of homes in Woodbury and Bethlehem. I can guarantee you, it already has.

Lori Grant

Woodbury