

Seeks Budget Denial

To the Editor:

The May 8 school budget allocates funds for reconfiguration. Clearly, reconfiguration is not the answer in many ways. A real renovation (30 + million) for both Mitchell and Bethlehem elementary schools is on the agenda for next year.

Reconfiguration is a band aid. Tearing down a few walls, turning stages into offices are at best, very temporary solutions. And at this point it's a \$100,000 + band aid.

In addition, reconfiguration means tearing apart our local schools, shipping Woodbury's youngest children on hour and a half daily commutes out of town, cutting the school day for the middle school and high school by a combined half hour each day, forcing renovations on now both of our elementary schools as opposed to just one, breaking up siblings and families, increased annual transportation costs that never go away and alienating young families and homebuyers (potential education supporters) from both communities in the future.

Strong local schools benefit our communities in immeasurable ways both in terms of raising our property values and giving children the proper building blocks to serve our communities in the future.

But this year's budget, which sadly contains reconfiguration items, calls for a dismantling of those schools. Exercise your right to say no to reconfiguration, say no to a board that has been deaf to the concerns of the community for six months and say no to the Tuesday, May 8, school budget.

Lynn Frederick
Woodbury