

## Reconfiguration Affects Older Students

To the Editor:

For over three months, community members in Regional School District 14 have asked legitimate questions of its Board of Education concerning the reconfiguration of Bethlehem Elementary School and Mitchell Elementary School.

Forced by citizen petition, on January 8, the Board of Education granted this community a public hearing, to be in question and answer format.

Parents in this community were looking forward to having their questions and concerns addressed by the board.

I attended this public meeting and unfortunately very few questions were answered and many potential obstacles to reconfiguration still remain.

One thing I do know for sure is that reconfiguration will affect every student in Region 14, not just its youngest.

During this hearing it was revealed by the Board of Education that class times at Nonnewaug High School and Woodbury Middle School would be cut in order to accommodate the new elementary busing schedule.

The administration announced that it expects Nonnewaug to lose approximately 24 minutes off its school day and the middle school to be about the same.

This loss of educational time amounts to roughly two hours per week, eight hours per month, and 80 hours per school year.

Lost instructional time isn't educationally sound and has the potential to lower both CMT and SAT scores.

To all parents in Region 14 who thought that reconfiguration does not affect their older student, I say you should now have newfound reason to be informed and be involved in this process.

Please visit [saveregion14elementary.com](http://saveregion14elementary.com) for a comprehensive look at the board's reconfiguration plan, its effects on all students of the region and how you can be involved.

One of the most important things we can do in life is to be an advocate for excellence in our children's educational experience.

Melissa Brogna

Woodbury