

Against Children at Board Meetings

To the Editor:

I am appalled whenever I watch a Board of Ed meeting. What truly astounds me are the children at these meetings. Why are we using them as pawns?

While I commend these children for having the courage to speak at an adult forum, it is highly inappropriate. Children shouldn't be speaking at a meeting for adults, who pay the taxes and for the most part understand the content.

A more disturbing observation was the chastising of the adults by these children. As a child I would never have the nerve to tell an adult they were setting a bad example.

It is the adults who should be holding each other accountable for their actions and examples, not the children. I have yet to see inappropriate behavior on the behalf of the adults.

I am often impressed with how respectful people are. I find the Board of Ed (for the most part) to be courteous in their replies.

Children at these meetings (under 18) are consuming valuable minutes, speaking into monumental issues they do not possess the maturity for.

The example we should be setting for our children is one of no worry and the feeling of being safe. This cannot happen if we interject our children at an adult forum. Why should they have to worry about these issues that are clearly for the grown-ups?

Shouldn't these children be worried about who they are going to be sitting with at lunch and whether they studied for their math quiz?

The issues presented are complicated and emotional for many; it should not be weighted on our children. They should be oblivious and trust that the parents, community members and elected officials of this town can manage without their input.

Save Region 14.

Melissa Danaher

Woodbury